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JOINT DISTRICTS

of the
BOROUGH OF QUEENBOROUGH
the
URBAN DISTRICT OF SHEERNESS
and the
RURAL DISTRICT OF SHEPPEY

~~~~~

**ANNUAL REPORT**

of the  
**Medical Officer of Health**  
for the year

**1953**

~~~~~

FRANK HAUXWELL, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

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of the

BOROUGH OF QUEENBOROUGH

the

URBAN DISTRICT OF SHEERNESS

and the

RURAL DISTRICT OF SHEPPEY



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FRANK HAUXWELL, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

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ISLE OF SHEPPEY

(Medical Officer of Health)

JOINT COMMITTEE

1953

Chairman :

H. C. Love

Members :

Queenborough Town Council :

Alderman Mrs. E. S. Weekes, J.P.

Miss D. L. Wood

Sheerness Urban District Council :

W. R. Ayre

A. G. Coats, J.P.

A. R. D. Hammond

Mrs. E. M. Lifton

Mrs. M. Pearce

Sheppey Rural District Council :

T. H. Dale

H. C. Love

Clerk to the Committee :

J. Griffiths, M.B.E., Solicitor

Medical Officer of Health :

Frank Hauxwell, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Public Health Department,
Trinity Road,
Sheerness

**To the Chairman and Members of the Isle of Sheppey
Joint (Medical Officer of Health) Committee**

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit herewith reports on health of the three constituent authorities of the Isle of Sheppey for the year 1953.

The most serious event of the year was the extensive flooding of large areas, both urban and rural, of the Isle on the night of January 31-February 1, and which resulted from the very considerable damage to sea wall defence caused by an exceptional combination of high tide and adverse winds. It is estimated that at the height of flood period about 15,000 acres of the total 22,365 acreage of the Island were under water.

Apart from material damage to property, the flood raised some very serious problems touching on the health of the inhabitants. It is no part of this Report to touch on the question of food supplies during this period except to note the speed with which arrangements were made for delivery of all necessary supplies from the mainland and the efficiency with which these deliveries were carried out.

With 2,641 houses flooded in Sheerness, 67 in Queenborough and 47 in the area of Sheppey R.D., immediate arrangements had to be made for dealing with the families whose houses had become uninhabitable. Day centres and feeding centres were opened both in Sheerness and at Minster and the Women's Voluntary Service and British Red Cross Society with other volunteers did excellent work in the running of these. Luckily most families who had to leave their homes found accommodation with relatives or friends so that by the end of 48 hours very few persons were passing through these centres though they continued to function for some time longer for the distribution of clothing and bedding.

In Sheerness, water supply was probably the biggest problem owing to contamination of both the Council's bores. Fortunately the Sheppey Water Company, whose pumping stations had not been affected, were able to give the Town an alternate supply through the Council's Sheerness East reservoir and this was circulated to Mile Town and the lower parts of the town, whilst water from H.M. Dockyard was pumped to Blue Town and the older parts of Mile Town. These supplies were limited however, and could only be turned on for short periods each day and as no information was available at this stage as to possible damaged mains leading to contamination of the water, householders were advised to boil all water used for drinking and cooking. Further supplies of drinking water were also brought into the town by boat from Chatham and distributed by service personnel to all areas in mobile tankers. Fortunately the contamination of the Council's own bores cleared up very quickly so that it was possible to bring them into use again though heavily chlorinated at first—about a fortnight later.

Neither the Queenborough nor the Sheppey R.D. bores were affected by the flooding so that water supplies in these areas were normal.

In Sheerness there was also some anxiety at first owing to the Town's sewerage system being put out of action through failure of the electricity at the main pumping stations. Luckily it was possible to put these pumps into operation again before any sign of regurgitation of sewage occurred. Neither of the other areas of the Island was seriously affected.

As the floods subsided many other problems had to be dealt with. Of these the chief health problems were cleaning, drying and disinfecting of flooded houses and furniture, dealing with foodstuffs damaged by the floods, and the disposal of carcasses of animals drowned in the rural areas,

Reports to their respective Councils by Chief Officers concerned dealing with the extent of the damage caused, the problems arising therefrom and the steps taken to deal with the problems are printed as a special Appendix at the end of the other printed Reports.

As to the effects of the floods on the health of the inhabitants of the Island, it is very satisfactory to be able to record that apart from some signs of strain and stress amongst the elderly and those not in good health and some not unexpected colds and minor chest troubles, the general standard of health remained excellent throughout.

Turning now to survey health statistics on the Island during the year, as a whole we find that though the birth rate increased from 15.7 per 1,000 of the population in 1952 to 16.0 per 1,000 in 1953, the Registrar-General's estimate of mid-year population for 1953 was only 28,686 and this is 5 fewer than his estimate for the previous year.

There was also some increase in the death rate and the infant mortality rate in 1953 as compared with the previous year. If however, these rates are compared with the rates for successive ten-year periods since 1901, it will be seen (in Table II) that the death rate for 1953 cannot be considered unusually high and that the infant mortality for 1953 is less than a third of that during the period 1901-1910. Comforting though these facts may be however, every effort must be made to reduce still further the 1953 rates in future years. This is especially important in regard to infant mortality. The infant death rate for England and Wales as a whole for 1953 was 26.8 per 1,000 births and this takes into account many highly industrialised areas. The Isle of Sheppey should be able to approach nearer to the England and Wales figure than it did in 1953. The only answer is more and still better ante-natal care and care at birth with when necessary, greater care for the infant during its first year of life.

In regard to Infectious Diseases, there were no serious outbreaks during the year. The number of Scarlet Fever cases notified was the lowest during the past five years although there was a slightly increased number of cases of Whooping Cough and Measles as compared with the previous year, the cases occurring were all mild in type.

VITAL STATISTICS

Table I shows the chief Vital Statistics for the Island for the past five years and Table II shows the 1953 birth and mortality rates in comparison with these occurring during successive 10 year periods since 1901.

TABLE I

	Year	Estimated Population	Total	Illegitimate and Rate per cent.	Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 of population	Total	Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of population	Total	Illegitimate	Infant Mortality per 1,000 Births
Queenborough M.B.	1949	3,027	57	5 or 8.8%	18.8	24	7.9	2	1	35.1
	1950	3,070	39	2 or 5.1%	12.7	31	10.1	1	0	25.6
	1951	3,111	51	2 or 3.9%	16.4	23	7.4	0	0	0.0
	1952	3,157	51	1 or 2.0%	16.2	34	10.8	2	0	39.2
	1953	3,215	55	3 or 5.5%	17.1	31	9.6	1	0	18.2
Sheerness U.D.	1949	14,840	264	15 or 5.7%	17.8	185	12.4	3	0	11.3
	1950	16,180	260	18 or 6.9%	16.0	199	12.3	5	0	19.2
	1951	17,590	261	20 or 7.6%	14.8	198	11.2	13	0	49.8
	1952	16,910	277	15 or 5.4%	16.4	148	8.8	5	0	18.1
	1953	16,270	282	19 or 6.7%	17.3	188	11.5	12	1	42.5
Sheppey R.D. . .	1949	8,860	171	16 or 9.3%	19.3	105	11.8	4	0	23.4
	1950	8,837	159	7 or 4.4%	17.9	99	11.2	4	0	25.1
	1951	9,104	150	5 or 3.3%	16.4	105	11.5	3	0	20.0
	1952	9,144	130	8 or 6.2%	14.2	102	11.2	5	0	38.5
	1953	9,201	122	11 or 9.0%	13.3	91	9.9	3	1	24.6
Isle of Sheppey	1949	26,727	492	36 or 7.3%	18.4	314	11.7	9	1	18.3
	1950	28,087	458	27 or 5.8%	16.3	329	11.7	10	0	21.8
	1951	29,805	462	27 or 5.8%	15.5	326	10.9	16	0	34.6
	1952	29,211	458	24 or 5.2%	15.7	284	9.7	12	0	26.2
	1953	28,686	459	33 or 7.1%	16.0	310	10.8	16	2	34.8

TABLE II

	Period	Birth Rate	Illegitimate % of live Births	Death Rate	Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births
Queen-borough M.B.	1901-1910	31.8	NK	12.5	7
	1911-1920	26.6	2.7	9.8	8
	1921-1930	18.0	2.6	8.5	7
	1931-1940	17.3	4.2	9.6	4
	1941-1950	22.3	5.3	10.5	2
	1951	16.4	3.9	7.4	0.0
	1952	16.2	2.0	10.8	39.2
	1953	17.1	5.5	9.6	18.2
Sheerness U.D.	1901-1910	23.0	NK	10.7	1
	1911-1920	24.5	2.1	13.3	0
	1921-1930	18.4	2.5	11.1	0
	1931-1940	13.8	4.1	11.7	4
	1941-1950	20.0	6.7	13.0	2
	1951	14.8	7.6	11.2	49.8
	1952	16.4	5.4	8.8	18.1
	1953	17.3	6.7	11.5	42.5
Sheppey R.D.	1925-1930	15.6	3.7	9.1	
	1931-1940	15.7	3.4	10.3	
	1941-1950	22.2	6.7	11.0	
	1951	16.4	3.3	11.5	20.0
	1952	14.2	6.2	11.2	38.5
	1953	13.3	9.0	9.9	24.6
Isle of Sheppey	1901-1911	23.8	NK	10.9	1
	1911-1920	24.8	2.2	12.7	
	1921-1930	17.9	2.7	10.4	
	1931-1940	14.7	3.9	11.1	
	1941-1950	21.2	6.5	12.0	
	1951	15.5	5.8	10.9	34.6
	1952	15.7	5.2	9.7	26.2
	1953	16.0	7.1	10.8	34.8

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Table III shows the incidence of infectious disease on the Island during the past five years.

TABLE III

		Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Measles	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Para. Ac. Poliomyelitis Non-Para.	Ac. Encephalitis	Dysentery	Malaria	Meningococcal Infection	Food Poisoning
n- ough B. . .	1949	5	1	-	142	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1950	20	60	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1951	-	9	-	70	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
	1952	-	-	-	83	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1953	-	1	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ness D. . .	1949	44	15	-	518	7	5	1	-	-	-	-	-
	1950	22	91	-	4	3	7	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1951	11	69	-	398	9	3	-	-	9	1	1	-
	1952	14	4	-	7	3	6	1	-	-	-	-	-
	1953	7	32	-	34	5	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
ey D. . .	1949	6	35	-	239	18	10	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1950	27	87	-	13	15	5	-	2	2	1	-	-
	1951	12	71	-	245	18	2	-	1	-	-	1	2
	1952	7	33	-	33	21	4	1	1	-	-	-	-
	1953	9	29	-	115	9	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
of ppey	1949	55	51	-	899	27	16	1	-	-	-	-	-
	1950	69	238	-	20	18	12	-	2	2	1	-	-
	1951	23	149	-	713	28	6	1	-	1	1	2	2
	1952	21	37	-	123	24	10	2	1	-	-	-	-
	1953	16	62	-	159	14	2	1	-	1	-	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS

(a) In Table IV is given the case rates and death rates of Tuberculosis per 1,000 of the population for 1953 in comparison with those for the years 1952 and 1951 and with the average for successive five-year periods since 1926. From this Table it will be seen that though the case rate for Pulmonary Tuberculosis for 1951 was considerably lower than the average for the immediate post-war years, there was during 1952 and 1953 a substantial increase in this rate. This increase has mainly occurred in the area of the Sheppey R.D. No satisfactory reason has been found for this increase and the only explanation that seems feasible is that that area has attracted to it a higher proportion than normal of persons who are semi-invalids or have retired for reasons of health.

In contrast with the increased rate for Pulmonary Tuberculosis, in recent years there has been a constant lowering of the death rate from this disease. This decrease in deaths from Tuberculosis has been consistently progressive since 1926 and it is of considerable interest to note that though the present case rate has only fallen by approximately one-third since 1926, the death rate has been reduced by twice as much during the same period.

TABLE IV

	Pulmonary				Non-Pulmonary			
	Case	Rate	Death	Rate	Case	Rate	Death	Rate
Queenborough M.B.								
1926-1930		1.40		0.89		0.25		0.00
1931-1935		1.13		0.66		0.06		0.00
1936-1940		0.61		0.41		0.06		0.00
1941-1945		0.96		0.88		0.07		0.14
1946-1950		1.07		0.47		0.06		0.00
1951	0.32	0.84	0.00	0.21	0.00	0.10	0.32	0.10
1952	1.90		0.63		0.32		0.00	
1953	0.31		0.00		0.00		0.00	
Sheerness U.D.								
1926-1930		1.12		0.80		0.28		0.04
1931-1935		0.83		0.61		0.24		0.12
1936-1940		0.65		0.43		0.18		0.05
1941-1945		0.55		0.49		0.09		0.04
1946-1950		0.93		0.41		0.10		0.00
1951	0.62	0.55	0.39	0.21	0.00	0.05	0.05	0.08
1952	0.59		0.12		0.18		0.06	
1953	0.49		0.12		0.00		0.12	
Sheppey R.D.								
1926-1930		1.37		0.66		0.44		0.11
1931-1935		0.88		0.75		0.36		0.09
1936-1940		0.29		0.31		0.12		0.02
1941-1945		0.61		0.42		0.19		0.05
1946-1950		0.94		0.32		0.20		0.07
1951	0.33	1.08	0.33	0.18	0.22	0.29	0.00	0.03
1952	1.20		0.00		0.55		0.11	
1953	1.84		0.22		0.11		0.00	
Isle of Sheppey								
1926-1930		1.22		0.80		0.31		0.05
1931-1935		0.88		0.65		0.26		0.10
1936-1940		0.54		0.40		0.15		0.03
1941-1945		0.62		0.51		0.12		0.06
1946-1950		0.95		0.39		0.13		0.02
1951	0.49	0.77	0.33	0.20	0.06	0.13	0.06	0.07
1952	0.92		0.14		0.31		0.07	
1953	0.90		0.14		0.03		0.07	

(b) During 1953 the Chest Clinic was moved from the premises in Sheerness at which it was previously conducted to more suitable premises at the Sheppey General Hospital. This has resulted in considerable improvement in the service as patients and contacts attending the Clinic can now have full X-ray examination when required on the same day that they attend to see the Chest Physician, instead of a previously requiring to attend at the Hospital by special appointment.

I am indebted to Dr. Owen Clarke, Chest Physician for the following figures relating to Tuberculosis :—

(i) Patients from the Isle of Sheppey who attended the Chest Clinic during 1953 :—

	Men	Women	Children
Number of new respiratory cases attending Clinic ...	7	10	3
Number of attendances made by new cases and contacts	50	54	110
Number of attendances made by old cases and contacts	217	133	52

(ii) Institutions to which patients were sent during 1953 :—

Keycol Sanatorium	...	...	4
Bow Arrow Hospital	...	...	11
Preston Hall Hospital	...	...	3
Lenham Sanatorium	...	...	4
Royal Sea Bathing Hospital	...	...	2
Queen Mary's Hospital	...	...	2
Eversfield Chest Hospital	...	...	1
Fairlight Sanatorium	...	...	1
Grove Park Hospital	...	...	2
Hastings Isolation Hospital	...	...	1

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer for the following figures relating to the medical inspection of school children on the Island during 1953 :—

(a) Number of inspections :

(i) Periodic :

Entrants	500
Second age group ...	335
Third age group ...	236
Others	304

(ii) Special Inspections ... 285

(iii) Re-inspections 567

(b) Number found to require treatment :

Entrants	40— 8.0% (2.1%)
Second age group ...	33— 9.8% (5.4%)
Third age group ...	38—16.1% (11.8%)
Other periodic inspections	69—22.7% (9.5%)

(c) Classification of general health of pupils inspected during the year :—

Age Groups	Number of pupils inspected	“ A ” (Good)		“ B ” (Fair)		“ C ” (Poor)	
		No.	% of Col. 2	No.	% of Col. 2	No.	% of Col. 2
Entrants	500	138	27.6(21.8)	330	66.0(72.5)	32	6.4(5.7)
Second ..	335	105	31.3(29.7)	210	62.7(66.5)	20	6.0(3.8)
Third ..	236	97	41.1(32.6)	129	54.7(69.2)	10	4.2(4.7)
Others ..	304	141	46.4(21.5)	153	50.3(71.6)	10	3.3(6.9)
Totals ..	1375	481	35.0(24.7)	822	59.8(70.0)	72	5.2(5.3)

Consideration of these figures shows that there was in 1953 as compared with the previous year, a not inconsiderable increase in the percentage of children at periodic inspection who were found to require treatment. It is also worthy of note that this percentage progressively increases as the child becomes older.

Judged by their classification of general health (commonly known as nutritional standard), the 1953 children appear to have been healthier than in the previous year, a greater percentage of them now qualifying for the “ A ” or “ Good ” standard.

(d) Dental Inspections and Treatment :

Number of pupils inspected by the Authority
Dental Officer :

(i) Periodic age groups	...	1793	
(ii) Specials	... ..	207	
Number found to require treatment	... ..	845	—42.2% (77.0%)
Number actually treated	...	477	

(e) Infestation with Vermin :

(i) Total number of examinations in the schools by the school nurses or other authorised persons	... ..	11,9
(ii) Number of pupils found to be infested		1
(iii) Number in respect of whom cleansing notices were issued (Section 54 (2) Education Act, 1944)	... ..	1

For the successful carrying on of the work of the Department, I am indebted to the ever willing and cheerful co-operation of my various colleagues and especially to the very able and valuable assistance of Mr. Pankhurst, Chief Clerk in my Sheerness office.

To the many Chairmen of Committees and other members of the various Councils I would express sincere thanks for their encouragement and consideration.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

FRANK HAUXWELL.

Queenborough Town Council

1953

Mayor :

Alderman Mrs. E. S. Weekes, J.P.

Deputy-Mayor :

Alderman R. J. Wellard

Aldermen :

Mrs. M. Dobner E. G. Dines

Councillors :

S. Adams

Mrs. D. L. Anderson

F. E. Cackett

D. Cunningham

H. G. Harris

S. Houldershaw

G. H. Lerpiniere

W. L. E. Mason

Mrs. V. I. Murphy

R. D. Sharrock

E. Thompson

Miss D. L. Wood

Health Committee :

Chairman :

Alderman R. J. Wellard

Aldermen :

Mrs. E. S. Weekes, J.P.

Mrs. M. Dobner

E. G. Dines

Councillors :

Mrs. D. L. Anderson

F. E. Cackett

G. H. Lerpiniere

E. Thompson

Miss D. L. Wood

Town Clerk :

F. Marshall

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector :

W. F. Dodds

Public Health Department,
Trinity Road,
Sheerness

To the Queenborough Town Council

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health of Queenborough during the year 1953.

Judged by the Vital Statistics and absence of infectious diseases during the year, 1953 was a remarkably healthy year for Queenborough despite the severe strain thrown on the population by the flooding at the end of January.

The Crude Birth Rate was 17.1 per 1,000 of the population slightly higher than last year when it was 16.2. The Corrected Birth Rate for comparison with other districts and with England and Wales as a whole was 17.6, the rate for England and Wales being 15.5.

The Crude Death Rate was slightly lower than in 1952 being 9.6 as compared with 10.8 per 1,000 of the population. The Corrected Death Rate was 9.9, the rate for England and Wales being 11.4.

Only one infant died under the age of 1 year giving an Infant Mortality Rate of 18.2 per 1,000 live births. For England and Wales this Rate was 26.8. In 1952 there were three infant deaths giving a rate of 39.2.

Once again there were very few infectious diseases notified, only 10 cases of Measles and 1 of Whooping Cough being recorded. There were no cases of Scarlet Fever for the third successive year, this being the longest period that this disease has been absent since 1900. It is also very satisfactory to note that only one case of Tuberculosis was notified during the year and only on three other occasions since 1925 has there been as in 1953 no deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

The question of dealing with unfit houses is still one of the most serious problems in the area. Though in comparison with larger areas slum clearance may not be a big problem in Queenborough, there are still too many old houses which are past reasonable repairs and which owing to their state of dilapidation and lack of sanitary amenities should be condemned. Admittedly rehousing of the tenants from such houses raises serious difficulties in view of the Council's

limited building resources and their already heavy list of other applicants. If the health of the Borough is to be maintained, however, a much bigger proportion of the houses built should in future be available for families living in houses that are condemned.

In regard to general supervision of sanitation, food, water, &c., progress is still being maintained and for much of the work in connection with this I am indebted to the enthusiastic co-operation of Mr. W. F. Dodds. I would like to take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to him for his valuable assistance throughout. To you and the Council I would also express my thanks for your encouragement and kindly consideration.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient servant,

FRANK HAUXWELL.

SECTION I

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

AREA IN ACRES

Land covered by water ...	...	5	}	1,103
Land ...	...	1,098		

A further 1,272 acres consists of 610 acres of foreshore and 622 acres subject to tidal waters and included in this area of the harbour which is owned by the Council.

POPULATION

As estimated by the Registrar-General for
mid-year 1953 ... 3,215

This figure is an increase of 58 over the estimated population for 1952. The natural increase in population, that is excess of births over deaths, was 24 as compared with a natural increase of 17 in 1952. The population at the 1951 census was 3,137.

NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES

963. This is an increase of 45 over the previous year.

4. RATEABLE VALUE

£19,565. This is an increase of £1,023 over the figure for 1952.

5. SUM REPRESENTING PENNY RATE

£73. This is a decrease of £2 in comparison with the previous year.

SECTION II

VITAL STATISTICS

1. BIRTHS

(a) Live Births	Males	Females	Totals
Legitimate	30 (25)	22 (25)	52 (50)
Illegitimate	1 (—)	2 (1)	3 (1)
Totals	31 (25)	24 (26)	55 (51)

(b) Birth Rate		
Crude rate per 1,000 population	17.1	(16)
Corrected rate per 1,000 population ...	17.6	(17)
Rate for England and Wales	15.5	(15)

(c) Still Births	Males	Females	Totals
Legitimate	— (1)	1 (2)	1 (3)
Illegitimate	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)

The number of births occurring in and the Birth Rate for Queenborough for 1953, though not as great as during the immediate post-war years, are the highest since 1949 and appear to approach more nearly pre-war levels. Of the 55 live births occurring, 3 (5.5%) were illegitimate and the corresponding percentages for 1952 and 1951 were 2.0% and 3.9%. The still birth percentage of total (live and still) births was 1.8%. The corresponding percentage for 1952 was 5.6%.

2. DEATHS

(a) The total number of deaths from all causes was 96 giving a crude death rate for the area of 9.6 per 1,000 of the population. The corresponding rates for the past five years were: 1952—10.8; 1951—7.4; 1950—10.1; 1949—8.3; and 1948—11.6 per 1,000. The corrected death rate for 1953 (

Figures in brackets refer to 1952.

adjusted for age and sex distribution to that of England and Wales as a whole) was 9.9 which compares very favourably with that of England and Wales, namely 11.4 per 1,000.

(b) The following table shows the age groups in which the deaths occurred :—

TABLE I

	Under 1 year	1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75-	85 years and over
	1	-	1	-	-	1	1	2	8	5	-
es	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	4	3	-

The average age at death was 63.7, being 61.8 for the males and 66.6 for the females. The oldest person dying was a male aged 84 years. The average age at death during 1952 was 66.0, being 62.5 for males and 70.0 for females.

(c) The following table shows the number of deaths as allocated to the area by the Registrar-General and classified under the 36 headings based on the Abbreviated List of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death, 1948.

TABLE II

Cause	Males	Females	Total
1 Tuberculosis, respiratory	— (2)	— (—)	— (—)
2 Tuberculosis, other	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
3 Syphilitic disease	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
4 Diphtheria	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
5 Whooping Cough	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
6 Meningococcal infections	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
7 Acute poliomyelitis	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
8 Measles	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
9 Other infective and parasitic diseases ..	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
10 Malignant neoplasm, stomach	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
11 Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ..	2 (—)	— (—)	2 (—)
12 Malignant neoplasm, breast	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
13 Malignant neoplasm, uterus	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
14 Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	— (2)	4 (1)	4 (—)
15 Leukaemia, aleukaemia	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
16 Diabetes	— (—)	1 (—)	1 (—)
17 Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	— (4)	3 (4)	3 (—)
18 Coronary disease, angina	4 (1)	— (—)	4 (—)
19 Hypertension with heart disease	— (—)	1 (—)	1 (—)
20 Other heart disease	2 (4)	2 (3)	4 (—)
21 Other circulatory disease	1 (—)	— (1)	1 (—)
22 Influenza	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
23 Pneumonia	1 (2)	— (—)	1 (—)
24 Bronchitis	4 (—)	— (3)	4 (—)
25 Other diseases of respiratory system ..	— (1)	— (—)	— (—)
26 Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	— (—)	1 (—)	1 (—)
27 Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
28 Nephritis and nephrosis	1 (—)	— (1)	1 (—)
29 Hyperplasia of prostate	1 (—)	— (—)	1 (—)
30 Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	— (—)	— (1)	— (—)
31 Congenital malformations	1 (1)	— (—)	1 (—)
32 Other defined and ill-defined diseases ..	2 (—)	— (1)	2 (—)
33 Motor vehicle accidents	— (—)	— (1)	— (—)
34 All other accidents	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
35 Suicide	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
36 Homicide and operations of war	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
All causes	19 (18)	12 (16)	31 (—)

In regard to causes of death, there is little appreciable difference in comparison with previous years. As is to be expected deaths from heart disease and associated conditions still account for the largest proportion of all deaths—approximately 42% in 1953. Deaths from malignant diseases increased from 3 in 1952 to 6 in 1953 and constituted approximately 19% of all deaths occurring. It is very satisfactory to note that for the sixth successive year there have been no deaths from any of the commoner infectious or parasitic diseases and that during 1953 there were no deaths from

tuberculosis, this being only the fourth occasion during the past 25 years on which no deaths have occurred in the area from this disease.

INFANT MORTALITY

There was only one infant death during the year as compared with 2, 0, 1 and 2 in 1952, 1951, 1950 and 1949. This gives an infant mortality rate of 18.2 per 1,000 live births. Calculated on the total births and infant deaths during the last years, the infant mortality rate for that period was 36.5 per 1,000 births. The rate for England and Wales for the year 1953 was 26.8. Details of the death are given in the following table :—

TABLE III

Cause	Sex	Age	Place of Birth	Place of Death
Asphyxia	M	3 days	Hospital	Hospital
Congenital cardiac abnormality				

SECTION III

INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

THEIR PREVALENCE AND CONTROL

For almost the whole of the year the Borough was free from infectious disease. Ten cases of Measles occurred at the beginning of the year and later one case of Whooping Cough was notified. For the third successive year Scarlet Fever was entirely absent.

The total number of cases notified, the number of cases admitted to hospital, and the total deaths from each disease are shown in the Registrar-General's classification of deaths given in Table IV below.

TABLE IV

Disease	Total	Total (1952)	Males	Females	Removed to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	-	(-)	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	1	(1)	-	1	-	-
Diphtheria	-	(-)	-	-	-	-
Measles	10	(83)	7	3	-	-
Acute Pneumonia (primary or influenzal)	-	(-)	-	-	-	1
Erysipelas	-	(-)	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	-	(-)	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	(-)	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	(-)	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	(-)	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	(-)	-	-	-	-
Smallpox	-	(-)	-	-	-	-
Typhoid	-	(-)	-	-	-	-
Malaria	-	(-)	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	(-)	-	-	-	-
Totals	11	(83)	7	4	-	1

2. Table V below shows the age distribution of cases infectious disease notified.

TABLE V

	At all ages	Age groups							
		Under 1 year	1 - 2	3 - 4	5 - 9	10 - 14	15 - 24	25 - 44	45 - 64
Whooping Cough ..	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles ..	10	-	1	2	3	4	-	-	-
Totals ..	11	-	2	2	3	4	-	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS

Only one new case of Pulmonary Tuberculosis was notified during the year, a married woman aged 38 years. This is very satisfactory in comparison with the unusually high number of 6 new cases notified during the previous year. As explained last year, however, the unusually high number of notifications received that year probably resulted from the visit of the Mass Radiography Unit to the area during the previous year. The average number of new cases over the last ten years has been 2.6 yearly.

No cases of non-pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during the year.

No deaths occurred during the year from any form of tuberculosis and the figures for ten year periods show that the Pulmonary death rate which rose gradually in the immediate post-war years and reached its highest figure in the period ending 1948, is now becoming appreciably lower.

Table VI gives a summary of cases on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of 1953.

TABLE VI

SUMMARY OF TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	M	F	M	F	
On Register, 1st January, 1953 ..	16	11	3	—	30
New notifications	—	1	—	—	1
Cases not notified before death ..	—	—	—	—	—
Cases restored to Register ..	—	—	—	—	—
Transfers from other districts ..	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths during year	—	—	—	—	—
Recovered	—	—	—	—	—
Removed from district	—	—	—	—	—
Diagnosis not confirmed	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths of cases on Register but not due to Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—
Number of cases remaining on Register, 31st Dec., 1953 ..	16	12	3	—	31

4. DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer for the following figures relating to the state of immunisation against Diphtheria of children under 15 years of age.

TABLE VII

Year of Birth	Primary Immunisation in 1953	Reinforcing Inoculation in 1953	Total number Immunised at end of 1953	Percentage of related population
1953	2	—	2	53.3 (70.3)
1952	29	—	35	
1951	1	—	39	
1950	2	—	42	
1949	—	—	42	
1948	1	1	54	87.1 (95.7)
1947	—	3	52	
1946	1	1	54	
1945	—	—	50	
1944	—	—	44	
1943	—	—	36	
1942	—	—	46	
1941	—	—	42	
1940	—	—	40	
1939	—	—	37	
Totals	36	5	615	74.8 (88.0)

It will be noted from the figures submitted that there has been a regrettable fall during 1953 in the number of children protected by immunisation. This is most apparent in children aged 0-4 years where the percentage immunised fell from 70.3% in 1952 to 53.3% in 1953. This is still more regrettable because in previous years there had been a gradual increase from 64.3% in 1949 to 70.3 in 1952. It is to be hoped that any further fall will be checked. The great danger is that with the long continued freedom from this disease in this area, parents become slack and fail to appreciate the great importance of having their children protected during their early years of life when the disease can be so fatal.

5. VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

I am also indebted to the County Medical Officer for the particulars of persons vaccinated against Smallpox during 1953 contained in the following table:—

TABLE VIII

Age group	Primary Vaccinations	Re-Vaccinations
Under 1 ..	20 (24)	— (—)
1 to 4	13 (7)	— (2)
5 to 14	3 (—)	3 (2)
15 and over ..	7 (6)	8 (5)
Totals ..	43 (37)	11 (9)

SECTION IV

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES
AND SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

(a) The supply of water from the two deep wells at shenden has continued to be adequate.

Of seven samples of untreated water taken during the first three quarters of the year, six showed presence of presumptive B.Coli and one showed faecal contamination. During September an automatically operated electric pump was installed and samples taken subsequently have been eminently satisfactory. There is no doubt but that the installation of this new pump in place of the old one which required constant adjustments, has by removing the necessity for workmen entering the well to carry out these adjustments done much to safeguard the purity of the untreated water.

Nine samples of treated water were taken from the reservoir and one showed slight presumptive B.Coli contamination, but eleven samples taken from domestic taps were all satisfactory.

(b) The total consumption during the year was 10,07,000 gallons of which 8,87,900 were used for trade purposes and 24, 528,000 for domestic purposes. This is a total average consumption of 28.4 gallons per head of the population and a domestic consumption of 20.9 per head per

2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

No additions or improvements were made to the sewerage system other than normal extensions for new houses.

Sewage flows by gravitation to two main outfalls South Street and at the Chalk Wharf. It is stored at the points and released with the ebb tide.

The only houses in the Borough not on main drains are at Pier Cottages, about half-a-mile from the town. The 18 houses there are served by three cesspools.

3. DISPOSAL OF REFUSE

Refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping on a site near Pier Cottages. Regular applications of a tip dressing prevent fly breeding and regular baiting controls rodents.

4. SCHOOLS SANITATION

The general sanitary arrangements at the Schools in the Borough have on all occasions been found satisfactory. There are on the water carriage system.

5. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Owing to the necessity for the removal of the convenience at the end of North Road because of work on defences, there are now only two public conveniences in the area, one in South Street and one off Railway Terrace. Both are for males and provide urinal accommodation only. It is suggested that a modern convenience with accommodation for both sexes and with washing facilities is an urgent requirement of the Borough.

6. DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

(a) Three rooms were disinfected after infectious disease.

(b) Four disinfestations against bed bugs were carried out.

7. MOSQUITO CONTROL

Preventive measures for the suppression of mosquito breeding were taken at regular intervals by the spraying of ditches and other collections of stagnant water. Mosquitoes were not so prevalent as usual and no serious complaints were received.

8. RODENT CONTROL

14 complaints were received and all these infestations were treated with satisfactory results. The Sheppey Glue and Chemical Works employ their own operator under the supervision of your Sanitary Inspector and the Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. Routine sewer tests were carried out in April. As in 1952, they showed complete freedom from rats, no baits being taken.

9. MORTUARY

A nominal fee is paid annually to the Medway and Gravesend Hospital Management Committee for the use of the mortuary facilities at the Sheppey General Hospital.

10. INSPECTIONS

Appendix A gives details of inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector during the year, while Appendix B shows details of nuisances and defects abated or remedied.

SECTION V

HOUSING

The following figures show building progress during 1953 and since the end of the war:—

		During 1953	Total built since the war
Council houses:			
Completed	... ..	22	140
Under construction	... ..	20	—
Private enterprise:			
Completed	... ..	—	4
Under construction	... ..	1	—

The following is a list of the types of houses now owned by the Borough :—

	Pre-war	Post-war	Total
Bungalows	8	6	14
Non-parlour 2-bedrooms ...	—	40	40
Non-parlour 3-bedrooms ...	63	4	67
Parlour 2-bedrooms	—	6	6
Parlour 3-bedrooms	9	84	93
Total	80	140	220

The 22 houses completed in 1953 were 18 non-parlour 2-BR and 4 non-parlour 3-BR houses, while the 20 under construction were all non-parlour 3-BR type.

At the end of the year there were 143 applicants on the housing waiting list, 101 living in Queenborough (58 rooms and 43 occupying houses) and 42 living outside the Borough (24 in rooms and 18 occupying houses).

2. UNFIT HOUSES

In October, 1953, an Official Representation under the Housing Act was made to the Council that the properties Nos. 1, 3, 5 and 7 West Street were in such a dilapidated and insanitary condition that the only satisfactory method of dealing with them was their demolition under a Clearance Order. At the same time the attention of the Council was directed to the necessity for taking positive action in regard to the premises Nos. 13 to 25 South Street, which were the subject of a Clearance Order made in 1939.

When however the question of rehousing the tenants from these two areas was given consideration by the Council, it was unfortunately decided to defer any decision until the Government's new proposals as outlined in their White Paper were available.

The rehousing of the tenants in these West Street and South Street houses is an urgent health matter which it is considered should take priority over the claims of any other applicants on the housing waiting list and it is regretted that the Council deferred this problem.

One representation under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, was made in June in respect of 134 High Street and the owner gave an undertaking not to re-let the premises for human habitation.

EFFECTS OF THE FLOOD

As a result of the extensive flooding on the Island which took place on the night of January 31-February 1, 67 houses in Queenborough were flooded, 23 of them so badly as to require temporary evacuation of the occupiers. Repairs were carried out under the Lord Mayor's Fund on 49 houses and by the end of the year most of this work had been completed. The remaining 18 are owned and were repaired by British Railways.

The 23 houses referred to above as requiring temporary evacuation, were situated at Pier Cottages (18) and Regina Cottages, Rushenden Road (5). Most of the tenants from these properties found alternative accommodation with relatives or friends but in a few cases accommodation was provided for them through Council agencies. The remaining 44 houses, flooded but still inhabitable, were situated in High Street, South Street, North Road, West Street and Rushenden Road.

Action taken by the Health Department in respect of housing is shown below:—

Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year—	
(i) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	29
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	83
(ii) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	5
(iii) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	24
Remedy of defects without service of formal notices—	
Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by local authority	22

C. Action under Statutory powers during the year—

- (i) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 N
- (ii) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :
 - (a) Number of houses in respect of which notices were served
 - (b) Number in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice
- (iii) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 N
- (iv) Proceedings under Sections 25 of Housing Act, 1936 N

SECTION VI

FOOD AND FOOD INSPECTION

1. MILK

There are no producers in the district, but there are no retailers of the following designations :—

Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	2
T.T. (pasteurised)	...	...	...	...	2
Sterilised	...	...	...	...	7
Non-designated	...	...	...	...	1

All the non-designated milk is heat treated milk imported from the mainland. During the year three samples (two of Pasteurised Milk and one sample of non-designated milk) were submitted for bacteriological examination, and all were reported to be satisfactory.

2. ICE CREAM

There are no manufacturers of ice cream in the Borough and the five registered premises all retail pre-packed ice cream of well-known manufacturers. There is also one itinerant vendor who visits the Borough regularly during the summer and sells his own product loose.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

Regular inspections are made of butchers' shops, factory anteens and other food preparing places. The following foods were found unfit for human consumption and were voluntarily surrendered :—

Pork	13 lbs.	Cooking Fat	1 $\frac{3}{4}$ cwts.
Beef	90 lbs.	Frying Fat	$\frac{1}{2}$ cwt.
Tinned Jellied Veal	6 lbs.	Tinned Salmon ...	1 lb.
Tinned Luncheon		Balancer Meal	1 cwt.
Meat	4 lbs.	Tinned Pears	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Tinned Corned Beef	30 lbs.	Sultanas	31 lbs.
Tinned Milk	44 pts.	Tinned Cherries ...	11 lbs.
Butter	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ cwts.	Tinned Plums	24 lbs.
Margarine	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cwts.		

Condemned foods are forwarded to the Sheppey Glue & Chemical Works, Queenborough, for destruction by process-
g. The quantities of butter, margarine, fats and meal were damaged during the flood at the end of January.

FOOD PREMISES

(a) The following are premises registered under the Food & Drugs Act, 1938, or the Milk & Dairies Regulations, 1939 :—

	Premises	Inspections
Cream, storage and sale	5	20
Messages, manufacture	2	8
ry	1	6

(b) 126 inspections were made of 32 other food premises, analysis of which by type of business appears below :—

Butchery	3
Grocery	4
General Stores	7
Greengrocery	3
Fishmonger	1
Confectionery	2
Baker and confectioner	2
Cafe	2
Club	2
Public house	6

FISH FRYING

There is only one establishment and this regularly maintains a good standard of cleanliness.

6. BAKEHOUSES

There are two bakehouses, both kept satisfactorily.

7. FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1938

By courtesy of the Chief Inspector of the Weights and Measures Department of the Kent County Council, I am able to give below the details of samples taken in the Borough during the year:—

Barley Mints	1	Ground Almonds	1
Barley Sugar	1	Liver & Bacon Paste	1
Beef Sausages	1	Malt Vinegar	1
Bitter Beer	1	Mendaco Tablets	1
Cheese Spread	1	Milk	1
Coffee	1	Skim Dried Milk Power	1
Evaporated Milk	1	Snax Pork Slice	1
Gin	1	Tomato Soup	1
Valderma	1	Whisky	1

All samples taken were reported as being genuine.

SECTION VII

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health:—

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities (no mechanical power) ..	—	—	—
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (mechanical power) ..	10	90	—
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) ..	—	—	—

2. Cases in which defects were found

3. Outwork (Sections 110 and 111)

Number of Outworkers

APPENDIX A

Visits and re-visits made by the Sanitary Inspector

							No. of visits
Accumulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
ashbins	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
akehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
lthy conditions	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
ffective sanitary accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
ffective drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
rainage re-laid	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
actories and other premises under	...	...	...	...	...	...	68
alls and places of entertainment	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
ovable dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
ublic conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
ts and mice	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
fuse collection	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
fuse tips	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
hools	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
ops	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
ables and Piggeries	...	...	...	...	...	...	} 22
eping of animals	...	...	...	...	...	...	
ter sampling	...	...	...	...	...	...	
ter supplies	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
squito control	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
pections under Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
housing interviews and investigations	...	...	...	...	...	...	83
ectionous disease investigations	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
at shops and vehicles	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
mongers and fried fish shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
cers	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
engrocers and fruiterers	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
ries and milk shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
taurants	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
d manufacturing premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
x sampling	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
nsive trades	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
							75

APPENDIX B

Nuisances and Defects remedied during the year

Defective sanitary accommodation	...	...	...
Drainage repaired	...	...	...
Drainage reconstructed	...	...	...
Sinks provided or renewed	...	...	...
Waste pipes repaired or trapped	...	...	...
Rain water pipes and eaves gutters repaired			...
Dampness remedied	...	...	...
Walls and ceilings repaired	...	...	...
Floors repaired	...	...	...
Windows and ventilation repaired or improved			...
Fireplaces and stoves repaired	...	...	...
Water supplies, defects remedied	...	...	...
Refuse receptacles provided	...	...	...
Accumulations of refuse abated	...	...	...
Keeping of animals abated	...	...	...

Sheerness Urban District Council

1953

Chairman :

R. J. Davie, J.P., C.C.

Vice-Chairman :

J. G. Ward

Councillors :

W. R. Ayre
E. R. Buzzing
A. G. Coats, J.P.
A. R. D. Hammond
Mrs. F. F. Lamont
Mrs. E. M. Lifton
Mrs. M. Pearce
A. F. Standen
Mrs. E. Tiltman
H. L. Wise

Health Committee :

Chairman :

Mrs. E. M. Lifton

Councillors :

E. R. Buzzing
R. J. Davie, J.P., C.C.
A. R. D. Hammond
Mrs. F. F. Lamont
Mrs. E. Tiltman

Clerk to the Council :

J. Griffiths, M.B.E., Solicitor

Senior Sanitary Inspector :

D. E. Jacob, A.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector :

D. G. Relph

Public Health Department,
Trinity Road,
Sheerness

To the Sheerness Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health of Sheerness for the year 1953.

The most serious event touching on the health of the area during that year was the flooding of a very large area of the town which took place on the night of 31st January—1st February owing to breaks in the sea wall defence. Though the total area covered by flood water in Sheerness was not as great as in other parts of the Island, the effect on the town were far more serious than in any of the other areas. In Sheerness a total of 2,641 houses were affected, the town's water bores were put out of action and through electrical failures at the pumping stations it was impossible to carry out the normal pumping of the town's sewage into the sea. During the flood period many different health problems arose and had to be dealt with immediately, it is with great satisfaction that I can look back and say that the Health Department was able to cope with every emergency presented to it. That this was possible was undoubtedly due to the energetic, selfless spirit with which every member of that department worked throughout the whole period. As detailed reports by your various Committee Officers on the damage caused by the floods, the problems that arose and the measures taken to deal with these problems have already been submitted to the Council, it is not proposed to comment further on this incident here but to print these reports as a special Appendix at the end of this publication.

Dealing now with routine health matters, there was in Sheerness a further rise in the crude birth rate during the year, it being 17.3 as compared with 16.4 per 1,000 of population in 1952. The corrected rate, used for comparison with other districts, was 18.9, while the rate for England and Wales was 15.5.

The crude death rate for the year was 11.5 as compared with 8.8 in 1952. Although the rate for 1953 is considerably higher than in the previous year, the rate for 1952 was not far below the average for the area. The corrected rate was 11.4 as compared with 11.4 for England and Wales.

Twelve deaths of infants under one year of age were registered as compared with 5 in 1952 and 13 in 1951. This gives an infant mortality rate of 42.5 per 1,000 live births as compared with an average rate of 30.1 and an average number of nine deaths each year over the past ten years. The infant mortality rate for England and Wales for 1953 was 28.8 and it is to be hoped that the rate for Sheerness can be reduced to nearer that figure in future years.

Although there was some increase in the number of infectious diseases notified in 1953 in comparison with the previous year (total notifications in 1953—82, in 1952—38) the number of cases occurring was still below the average for the past five years. Of the total that occurred seven were cases of Scarlet Fever, the lowest for this disease since the beginning of the war. In comparison with the previous year, Measles and Whooping Cough were slightly more prevalent but their incidence was still below the average of recent years.

During the year further progress was made in implementation of the Council's 10-year slum clearance programme, a total of 59 houses being dealt with under Clearance or Compulsory Purchase Orders or as Individual Unfit Houses. These were mainly in the Mile Town and Blue Town areas. It is to be hoped that this rate of progress will be maintained so that the abolition of slum property in Sheerness can be accomplished well within the time limit suggested, and that by its demolition, re-development of these areas can be accomplished in a manner which will not only provide healthier homes for the inhabitants but become a credit to the town.

For much of the supervision of general sanitation, food supplies, etc., I am indebted to the Council's Senior Sanitary Inspector, Mr. D. E. Jacob, and I would take this opportunity of placing on record my warm appreciation of his ever ready and able assistance in dealing with the various problems arising.

I would also take this opportunity of thanking members of the Council for their kindly consideration and support in my work.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

FRANK HAUXWELL.

SECTION I

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

1. AREA	...	...	...	...	...	943 ac
2. POPULATION	As estimated by the Registrar General for mid-1953					16,
This is 640 less than the estimate for 1952, but is increase of 543 over the 1951 census figure.						
3. NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES	...	...	...	...	...	4,
4. RATEABLE VALUE	...	...	...	...	...	£114,
5. SUM REPRESENTED BY PENNY RATE	...	...	...	...	...	£

SECTION II

1. BIRTHS

(a) Live Births

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	136 (141)	127 (121)	263 (262)
Illegitimate	6 (11)	13 (4)	19 (15)
Totals	142 (152)	140 (125)	282 (277)

Illegitimate births were 6.7% of the total births as compared with 5.4% last year.

(b) Birth Rate

Crude Rate per 1,000 population	17.3 (17.3)
Corrected Rate per 1,000 population	18.9 (18.9)
Rate for England and Wales	15.5 (15.5)

(c) Still Births

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	1 (4)	3 (2)	4 (6)
Illegitimate	1 (-)	- (-)	1 (-)

The Still Birth percentage of the total (live and still) births was 1.7% as compared with 2.1% in 1952.

Figures in brackets refer to 1952.

2. DEATHS

(a) The total number of deaths from all causes in 1953 was 188 of which 102 were males and 86 females. The number of deaths recorded in 1953 was 40 more than in the previous year, when only 148 occurred. The year 1952 appears however to have been exceptional as taken over a period of years the average number of deaths each year during the past ten years was 181.

(b) Death Rate

Crude rate per 1,000 population	11.5 (8.8)
Corrected rate per 1,000 population ...	11.3 (8.8)
Rate for England and Wales	11.4 (11.3)

The crude death rates for the area during the past ten years were as follows:—

1944	—	11.7 per 1,000 population
1945	—	12.9
1946	—	13.0
1947	—	13.8
1948	—	12.9
1949	—	11.5
1950	—	12.4
1951	—	11.2
1952	—	8.8
1953	—	11.5

(c) The following table shows the age groups in which deaths occurred:—

TABLE I

Under 1 year	1—	5—	15—	25—	35—	45—	55—	65—	75—	85 years and over
9	1	1	2	3	1	2	24	36	19	4
3	1	—	—	—	2	7	13	25	26	9

The average age at death was 63.1 years, being 59.9 for males and 67.8 for females. Two people, a male and a female, reached the age of 92. In 1952 the average was 67.4 years, being 67.5 for the males and 67.2 for females, and in 1951 the average was 65.9 years being 64.0 for males and 67.0 for females.

(d) The following table shows the number of deaths allocated to the area by the Registrar-General and classified under the 36 headings based on the Abbreviated List of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death, 1948.

TABLE II

Cause	Males	Females	Total
1 Tuberculosis, respiratory	2 (2)	— (—)	2 (2)
2 Tuberculosis, other	— (1)	2 (—)	2 (1)
3 Syphilitic disease	2 (—)	— (—)	2 (—)
4 Diphtheria	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
5 Whooping Cough	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
6 Meningococcal infections	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
7 Acute poliomyelitis	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
8 Measles	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
9 Other infective and parasitic diseases ..	2 (—)	— (—)	2 (—)
10 Malignant neoplasm, stomach	4 (1)	4 (1)	8 (2)
11 Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ..	6 (6)	1 (1)	7 (7)
12 Malignant neoplasm, breast	— (—)	1 (3)	1 (3)
13 Malignant neoplasm, uterus	— (—)	2 (1)	2 (1)
14 Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	9 (9)	5 (6)	14 (15)
15 Leukaemia, aleukaemia	— (—)	— (1)	— (1)
16 Diabetes	1 (—)	— (—)	1 (—)
17 Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	11 (6)	17 (10)	28 (16)
18 Coronary disease, angina	15 (21)	8 (5)	23 (26)
19 Hypertension with heart disease ..	1 (1)	— (2)	1 (3)
20 Other heart disease	12 (17)	19 (16)	31 (33)
21 Other circulatory disease	5 (3)	2 (1)	7 (4)
22 Influenza	1 (—)	1 (—)	2 (—)
23 Pneumonia	2 (1)	4 (1)	6 (2)
24 Bronchitis	8 (9)	7 (3)	15 (12)
25 Other diseases of respiratory system ..	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
26 Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ..	1 (2)	— (—)	1 (2)
27 Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ..	— (1)	1 (—)	1 (1)
28 Nephritis and nephrosis	— (—)	1 (—)	1 (—)
29 Hyperplasia of prostate	— (3)	— (—)	— (3)
30 Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ..	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
31 Congenital malformations	2 (1)	— (—)	2 (1)
32 Other defined and ill-defined diseases ..	8 (3)	8 (7)	16 (10)
33 Motor vehicle accidents	2 (—)	— (—)	2 (—)
34 All other accidents	6 (1)	2 (2)	8 (3)
35 Suicide	1 (—)	1 (—)	2 (—)
36 Homicide and operations of war ..	1 (—)	— (—)	1 (—)
All causes	102 (88)	86 (60)	188 (148)

As might be expected, there was following the strain and stress and hardships endured during and following the flood period at the end of January, some increase especially in the

lderly in deaths from heart disease and associated conditions. There was also some increase though not as much as might have been expected in deaths from bronchitis, pneumonia and other respiratory diseases. Deaths from malignant disease showed little variation from previous years and caused approximately 17% of all deaths occurring.

There was during 1953 an unusual increase in deaths from accidents and other forms of violence. These increased from 3 in 1952 to 13 in 1953. Apart from those attributed to motor vehicle accidents, suicide and homicide, 8 deaths occurred from other accidental causes. None of these appear however to have been associated with flood incidents, though as a result of an explosion in the Dockyard, two men lost their lives during that period. Of the others, 3 resulted from domestic accidents, 1 happened to an elderly deaf man at a level crossing, 1 man accidentally fell into the canal and another happened at Ridham Dock.

INFANT MORTALITY

(a) It is to be regretted that for the second time in recent years there was in 1953 a very considerable increase in the deaths of infants under one year of age, there being such deaths in 1953 as compared with only five in 1952. This is the second time since 1948 that the number has reached double figures, the number lost during each of the intervening years since then never having exceeded

The Infant Mortality Rate for 1953 was 42.5 per 1,000 births, whereas that for England and Wales as a whole was 26.8 per 1,000. Though the figures for Sheerness for 1953 are somewhat disquieting, this rate does tend to fluctuate in small populations, and it is more heartening to note that taken over ten year periods since 1900 there has been an aggressive reduction in this rate from 115.3 per 1,000 to 26.8 per 1,000.

(b) The following table gives details of the twelve deaths that occurred during 1953:—

TABLE III

Cause	Sex	Age	Place of birth	Place of death
Prematurity Toxaemia of pregnancy in mother	F	1 hour	Hospital	Hospital
Prematurity Twin pregnancy	F	18 hours	Hospital	Hospital
Broncho-pneumonia Prematurity	M	2 days	Hospital	Hospital
Congenital Hydrocephalus ..	M	4 days	Hospital	Hospital
Congenital heart disease Mongolism	M	4 days	Home	Home
Cerebral haemorrhage Prematurity	M	4 days	Home	Home
Asphyxia due to aspirated vomit	M	2 months	Home	Home
Septicaemia Bilateral otitis media	M	2 months	Hospital	Hospital
Bilateral otitis media	M	3 months	Home	Home
Broncho Pneumonia Hydrocephalus	M	3 months	Hospital	Hospital
Cerebellar tumour	M	3½ months	Hospital	Home
Capillary Broncho Pneumonia ..	M	7 weeks	Hospital	Home
Broncho Pneumonia	F			

SECTION III

INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES THEIR PREVALENCE AND CONTROL

1. Though the total number of infectious diseases notified during 1953 was greater than in the previous year (82 cases notified in 1953, 38 in 1952) it was still less than the average over the past ten years. Of the total, only seven cases of Scarlet Fever occurred, this being the lowest for this disease since the beginning of the war. In comparison with the previous year there was some increase in cases of Measles and Whooping Cough, these being increased to 34 and 32 respectively.

tively in comparison with 7 and 4 respectively in the previous year. The figures for 1953 are however still below the average yearly incidence of the past ten years.

For the fifth year in succession no cases of Diphtheria were notified nor were there any cases of Acute Poliomyelitis during the year.

The total number of cases notified, the number admitted to hospital and the total deaths from each disease as shown in the Registrar-General's classification of deaths are shown in Table IV and the age distribution of cases occurring in Table V.

TABLE IV

Disease	Total	Total (1952)	Males	Females	Removed to Hospital	Deaths	Deaths (1952)
Scarlet Fever	7	(14)	5	2	1	-	(-)
Whooping Cough	32	(4)	18	14	1	-	(-)
Diphtheria	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Measles	34	(7)	21	13	-	-	(-)
Acute Pneumonia (primary or influenzal)	5	(3)	2	3	-	6	(5)
Erysipelas	1	(6)	-	1	-	-	(-)
Meningococcal Infection	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	(1)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Dysentery	1	(-)	-	1	-	-	(-)
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Interperal Pyrexia	2	(3)	-	2	-	-	(-)
Smallpox	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Typhoid	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Malaria	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Food Poisoning	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Totals	82	(38)	46	36	2	6	(5)

TABLE V

	At all ages	Age groups							
		Under 1 year	1 - 2	3 - 4	5 - 9	10 - 14	15 - 24	25 - 44	45 - 64
Scarlet Fever	7	-	-	1	5	1	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	32	4	6	11	8	2	1	-	-
Measles	34	-	6	6	16	5	-	1	-
Pneumonia (acute primary or influenzal)	5	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	2
Erysipelas	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Dysentery	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	82	4	13	19	29	8	2	3	3

2. TUBERCULOSIS

Only seven new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during the year, but in addition the death of one resident was registered as due to Tuberculosis though he had not previously been notified. For statistical purposes therefore the number of new cases during the year is taken as eight. This is the lowest number of new cases reported in any one year since 1944.

The number of deaths reported during 1953 as due to Pulmonary Tuberculosis was two. This is the same number as during the previous year, and the years 1952 and 1953 are the only years in which such a small number of deaths have been registered since the compilation of local records commenced in 1900.

No new cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during the year, but two deaths were registered attributable to this form of the disease. These were both kidney cases.

Table VI gives details of new cases and deaths during the year while Table VII gives a summary of cases on the Tuberculosis Register.

TABLE VI

Ages	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 to 5 years	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 to 15 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 to 25 years	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 to 35 years	*1	-	-	-	*1	-	-	-
35 to 45 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 to 55 years	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 to 65 years	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
65 and over	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Totals	*7	1	-	-	2	-	-	2

* Includes one case not notified before death

TABLE VII

SUMMARY OF TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	M	F	M	F	
On Register, 1st January, 1953 ..	64	46	7	19	136
New notifications	6	1	-	-	7
Cases not notified before death ..	1	-	-	-	1
Cases restored to Register	1	-	-	-	1
Transfers from other districts ..	-	-	-	-	-
Deaths during year	2	*1	-	1	4
Recovered	-	-	-	-	-
Removed from district	1	-	-	-	1
Diagnosis not confirmed	-	-	-	-	-
Deaths of cases on Register but not due to Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-
Number of cases remaining on Register, 31st Dec., 1953 ..	69	46	7	18	140

* Pulmonary case but death due to non-pulmonary cause

4. DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer for the following figures relating to the state of immunisation against Diphtheria of children under 15 years of age.

TABLE VIII

Year of Birth	Primary Immunisation in 1953	Reinforcing Inoculation in 1953	Total number Immunised at end of 1953	Percentage of related population
1953	20	—	20	64.3 (69.3)
1952	163	—	184	
1951	17	—	202	
1950	3	—	233	
1949	1	21	237	
1948	1	88	238	81.4 (79.2)
1947	1	60	183	
1946	—	8	185	
1945	—	2	160	
1944	1	1	179	
1943	—	3	174	
1942	—	1	151	
1941	—	—	157	
1940	—	—	149	
1939	—	—	148	
Totals	207	184	2600	74.7 (75.7)

From this statement it will be seen that there has been a decrease during 1953 in the number of children under 15 years of age protected by immunisation—in 1953—64.3% in 1952—69.3%. Over the past five years however there has been an increase in those protected at this age, the percentage having risen from 57.5% in 1949 to the present figure of 64.3% for 1953. It is to be hoped that in future years there will be a still further increase on the 1953 percentage as it is only by maintaining a high percentage of children protected at these early years that freedom from this deadly disease can reasonably be expected.

5. VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

I am also indebted to the County Medical Officer for the particulars of persons vaccinated against Smallpox and

ng 1953 contained in the following table :—

TABLE IX

Age group	Primary Vaccinations	Re-Vaccinations
Under 1 ..	106 (109)	— (—)
1 to 4	58 (67)	2 (11)
5 to 14	7 (18)	4 (15)
15 and over ..	21 (45)	24 (61)
Totals ..	192 (254)	30 (87)

SECTION IV

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES AND SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

(a) The water supply is derived from two boreholes, namely at Sheerness East and at Trinity Road and an augmenting supply is purchased from the Sheppey Water Company. All the water is chlorinated before distribution. It is regretted that a constant supply is not yet maintained during the whole of the year as there is always a potential danger from an intermittent supply as explained in my last Annual Report.

The total consumption amounted to 153,750,300 gallons, giving a daily consumption of 25.8 gallons per head of the population.

Pumped from Trinity Road	...	...	75,901,600
Pumped from Sheerness East	...	...	61,309,700
Purchased from Sheppey Water Co.	...	...	16,539,000

Approximately 95% of houses in the town are supplied by mains direct, the remainder being supplied by standpipe.

(b) As a result of the floods on the night of January 31—February 1, both the Council's pumping bores were put out of action owing to sea water gaining access and until these

were put into action again and the water was considered safe for use, Sheerness was dependent on a supply from the Sheppey Water Company and on water from H.M. Dockyard. As these supplies were limited however, circulation had to be confined to only a few hours daily as the possibility of damaged mains allowing pollution of the supply during periods when the pipes were not under pressure could not be neglected. Household holders were advised to boil all drinking water. Later an additional supply was made available by the Admiralty carrying fresh water by boat from Chatham and distributing it by mobile tankers from door to door.

By the middle of February the saline content of the water from the Council's own bores, which had been pumping to waste, had become so reduced that it was decided to chlorinate this water heavily (5 parts Chlorine per million gallons) and put it into general circulation, partly for sterilising the mains and partly for use as household washing water. Drinking water continued to be available during this period from the mobile tankers. Progressive improvement in the quality of the water from the bores was such however that by 26th February chlorination was reduced to 1.0 p.p.m. the mobile tankers were withdrawn and household holders were advised that it was no longer necessary to boil water for drinking or cooking.

Further details of water supply problems during the flood are contained in special reports printed in the Appendix.

2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Sewage is collected at two main pumping stations. The Canal station deals with sewage from the Marine Town and the newer parts of Mile Town and the new housing estate. The sewage from these areas collects in a tide lock storage tank at West Minster, whence it flows out to sea by gravity at low tide or is pumped out at high tide. Sewage from the Town and the older part of Mile Town is collected at the West Minster pumping station and this is also pumped out to sea. Four subsidiary lifting stations are used throughout the town and the sewage is screened either at one of these lifting stations or at the main pumping station, but is otherwise treated.

Plans for the reconstruction of the West Minster pumping station which will increase its pumping capacity to enable it to deal more efficiently with storm water were completed during the year and the work is expected to commence shortly. When such work is completed, storm water

ooding which at present occurs in two or three localities during heavy rainfall, should be eliminated. In the meantime, small alterations to certain lengths of sewers in those localities have been carried out and are expected to improve the position. The extension of the sewers on the No. 5 Housing Site was completed during the year.

DISPOSAL OF REFUSE

The method of disposal of refuse has continued to be tipping into the watercourse known as Barton's Point to Greenborough Lines. At one time, outbreaks of fire caused difficulty in consolidating the approach to the tipping face across the watercourse and necessitated tipping along the banks of the watercourse. The close proximity of this tip to newly completed houses on the No. 5 Housing Site has caused some complaints when outbreaks of fire occurred.

The tip was treated with a dressing to control insect pests in summer and regular baiting for rodent control resulted only slight occasional infestations.

SCHOOLS SANITATION

All schools are on main drainage with efficient flushing apparatus. Cooking and washing up arrangements at the schools' canteens are satisfactory.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Previous proposals for the provision of conveniences at eastern end of Marine Parade were discontinued and the site is being used temporarily as garage accommodation. A scheme for a sea bathing station and public conveniences for centre of Marine Parade has now been proposed and is awaiting approval. No progress was made during the year on either the High Street (Blue Town) conveniences or on the Royal Road alternative conveniences. In the case of the Blue Town convenience, an alteration in the time of opening of the South Gate to H.M. Dockyard by reducing the number of naval personnel using the High Street has suggested that this convenience is not at present an urgent necessity. An alternative to the present unsatisfactory Royal Road convenience is at present held up owing to the difficulty of finding a suitable site.

In only one of the present conveniences are there wash-facilities. In view of the very great importance of food hygiene this is a very serious omission. The free use of soap and water (with perhaps a paper towel) for the washing of hands only should be an essential part of every convenience.

6. PUBLIC BATHS

(a) Slipper Baths—Slipper bath facilities for both sexes (3 male and 3 female) are available at the Wood Street Baths. These were used by an average of 101 persons per week during 1953.

(b) Open Air Swimming Pool—This is only open from approximately Whitsuntide to September. During the 1953 season approximately 36,000 persons took advantage of the facilities offered there. The water at the pool is purified by continuous filtration and chlorination and six samples taken for bacteriological examination showed excellent results.

7. LETHAL CHAMBER FOR CATS AND DOGS

The Lethal Chamber maintained by the Council for the destruction of sick and aged animals was again extensively used during the year. 148 cats and 103 dogs were destroyed, ten of the dogs being strays brought in by the police.

8. CAMPING SITES

There are two camping sites in the district, one at Cheyney Rock, accommodating 25 caravans and the other at the Ravelin Site with 82 caravans. Both were conducted very satisfactorily and no complaints were received. The conveniences and ablution at the Ravelin Site were completed in 1953. Application for licensing another site at Cheyney Rock was received at the end of the year. This site, with accommodation for 35 caravans, will include adequate provision of sanitary amenities and is expected to be in use during the summer of 1954.

During the year one person illegally occupied a caravan on the Council's car park after vacating a standing order locally licensed site. Efforts to persuade her to vacate were unsuccessful and the contravention remained to be solved in 1954.

9. DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

(a) Nine premises were disinfected after infectious disease.

Formalin is used at present both for the disinfection of rooms and of bedding after infectious disease. Unfortunately during the year the Council's steam disinfector was put out of action owing to the condition of the boiler. This was most unfortunate as steam disinfection is the only really satisfactory method of disinfecting bedding and clothing. Pe

the acquisition of a new boiler, bedding and clothing have to be dealt with as part of the chemical disinfection of premises, but through the kindness and courtesy of the Captain Superintendent of H.M. Dockyard, the use of their disinfectant has been made available for cases of emergency when immediate disinfection is required. It is to be hoped that the coming into use of the Council's own disinfectant at an early date will be expedited.

(b) The following are details of premises disinfested :—

	Council houses		Other houses	
	No.	Rooms	No.	Rooms
Bugs	4	10	17	37
Flies	1	2	17	47
Kroaches	2	—	2	—
Spiders	12	—	9	—
Beetles	—	—	2	—
Pet Beetles	2	—	—	—
Others	—	—	1	—

Infestations are dealt with by spraying and/or dusting with DDT preparations. A careful scrutiny is made of all applicants where verminous conditions are suspected or known to have previously existed. If necessary premises are disinfested prior to removal and instructions given to the tenants.

MOSQUITO CONTROL

As in previous years the spraying during spring with a solution of outbuildings, stables, piggeries, etc., likely to harbour insects during hibernation and the spraying of drains and watercourses with Malariol during the summer months, have been continued with good effect.

The further piping in of ditches near occupied houses has eradicated some breeding grounds but the extension of piping sites will necessitate dealing with more ditches, and it is understood that these will receive attention in due season.

RODENT CONTROL

(a) Surface Infestations—84 infestations were treated by the Council's operator. These involved the laying of 480 baits of which 76 were completely taken and 147 partly taken. Surface infestations are invariably associated with careless disposal of edible waste and neglect in covering animal feeding stuff for small domestic livestock and advice is given to householders when infestations occur.

(b) Sewers—A test baiting of the sewers showed no new infestations, 30 manholes on and surrounding former infestations being re-treated with only five takes. There are over 360 manholes in the sewerage system and this infestation is considered slight.

12. MORTUARY

A nominal fee is paid annually to the Medway and Gravesend Hospital Management Committee for the use of the mortuary facilities at the Sheppey General Hospital.

13. INSPECTIONS, NUISANCES ABATED

Details of inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector are shown in Appendix A and details of nuisances and defects remedied or abated are shown in Appendix B.

SECTION V

HOUSING

1. The following are details of the number of houses built during 1953 and the total since the war :—

	During 1953	Total since end of war
Council houses—		
Temporary, completed	—	46
Permanent, completed	80	485
Permanent, under construction	52	—
Private enterprise—		
Permanent, completed	3	23
Permanent, under construction	4	—

At the end of the year there were 391 applicants on Council's waiting list, 155 of them living in rooms and other 236 occupying houses or flats.

The majority of lettings in 1953 were to applicants from the general waiting list. In 1954 it is expected that the completion of the purchase of houses in the Rose Street and Russell Street Compulsory Purchase Orders and the operation of the Blue Town Clearance Orders will necessitate a larger proportion of lettings to re-house tenants displaced from these areas.

2. Further action on the Council's slum clearance programme was taken during the year. In Blue Town three Clearance Areas were made and confirmed without objections. These contained the following 21 houses :—

Charles Street : Nos. 1, 3, 5, 7, 29, 31 and 33.

Chapel Street : Nos. 10, 14, 16, 43, 45, 47, 47A, 49, 51 and 57.

Chel Passage : Nos. 11 and 13.

In Mile Town, two Clearance Areas were represented and were included in Compulsory Purchase Orders which await confirmation. These two areas include 31 houses at :—

Hope Street : Nos. 62/64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 84, 84A, 86, 86A, 88A, 92.

High Street : Nos. 9, 11, 13, 15.

Spring Garden Passage : Nos. 15, 16, 17, 18, 19.

Russell Street : Nos. 75, 77A, 79, 81, 87, 89.

Wewey Row : No. 9.

In December, reports regarding a further possible Clearance Area were prepared and an Official Representation made in January, 1954, in respect of Nos. 10, 11, 12, 13 and West Street, Blue Town.

Individual Demolition Orders were made on six houses during the year, viz., 16 Montague Road, 11 High Street, Blue Town, 108 Russell Street, 25 Broad Street, 100A Hope Street and 4 Charles Street.

Another house, No. 29 Victory Street, was the subject of a Closing Order made under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953.

During the year a further eight defective houses became dangerous and have not been relet, it being uneconomic to maintain them.

The following are details of actual demolitions that took place during the year :—

Informal action—26 East Lane, 128 and 130 High Street.

Demolition Orders—16 Montague Road, 11 High Street, Blue Town, 108 Russell Street, 110 Russell Street, 100a Hope Street, 22 East Lane.

Clearance Areas—3 and 5 Charles Street.

Compulsory Purchase Orders—69, 79 and 81 Russell Street.

3. Flood Damage

As a result of the floods at the end of January, no less than 2,641 houses were flooded to a greater or lesser extent. The most serious areas involved were the Clyde Street Union Street area and adjoining roads, the new housing site off Rose Street and the housing estates off St. George's Avenue. The floods also extended and affected houses in High Street in the Cheyney Rock area, in Blue Town and at Westminster.

Though official offer of evacuation to billets in the Rural area was made, most families preferred to make their own arrangements with relatives or friends and only 90 persons took advantage of official billets.

Apart from the dampness caused, very little structural damage was caused to any of the flooded houses, though a few suffered damage to doors, door frames, window frames etc. As soon as the flood water subsided, energetic steps were taken by the owners to clean up their premises. To assist in this work supplies of disinfectant and detergent were made freely available by the Council and the R.A. were very kindly supplied and operated hot air drying units. The latter were found extremely useful in drying out both the interior of the house and the furniture. Later in the year arrangements carried out through the Lord Mayor's Fund dealt with all questions of repair, but it was not expected that this work could be completed before the end of the year. Further, it is feared that especially in the older properties some dampness may persist intermittently for some years.

4. Action taken by the Health Department in respect of housing during the year is summarised below :—

A. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year

- (i) (a) Total number of houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose
- (ii) (a) Number of houses (included above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1926 and 1932
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose

(iii)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	70
(iv)	Number of dwelling-houses (excluding those referred to under (iii)) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	261
Remedy of defects without service of formal notices		
	Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action ...	187
Action under Statutory Powers during the year under Housing Act, 1936 :		
(i)	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16	Nil
(ii)	Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13	
(a)	Number of houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	6
(b)	Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders (including Orders made before 1953)	6
(c)	Number of houses demolished by informal action	3
(iii)	Proceedings under Section 12 (amended by Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953):	
	Number of Closing Orders made ...	1
(iv)	Proceedings under Section 25 :	
	No. of houses in respect of which Clearance and Compulsory Purchase Orders approved	49
	No. of houses demolished as result of Clearance Orders (including those made before 1953)	5
(v)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts :	
	No. of houses in respect of which notices were served	10
	No. in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	10

SECTION VI

FOOD AND FOOD INSPECTION

1. FOOD BYELAWS, Etc.

The byelaws with respect to the handling, wrapping and delivery of food were complied with satisfactorily and it is considered that the publicity given to food hygiene during past years has made the majority of food handlers hygienically conscious. One butcher's shop was considerably improved by a new window and counter with refrigerated display cabinet.

2. MILK SUPPLY

There are no producers in the area but there is one pasteurising plant in operation. There are 25 registered retailers of the following designations:—

Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	2
T.T. (Pasteurised)	...	...	...	...	2
Sterilised	...	...	...	...	23

Of a total of 27 samples of pasteurised milk, five failed to satisfy the prescribed tests. These came from two pasteurising plants on the Island, one in the Council's area and one in the area of Sheppey R.D.C., licensed and supervised by the Kent County Authority. The unsatisfactory samples were therefore reported to the County Sanitary Authority who in conjunction with the manufacturers of the plant carried out an extensive overhaul. Since then all samples have been satisfactory.

3. ICE CREAM

Premises registered for manufacture	...	...	2
Premises registered for sale and storage	...	...	32

There have been four new registrations for the sale of Ice Cream during the year and four other premises formerly registered have ceased sales through change of business. The majority of supplies are sold pre-packed.

Of 16 samples taken, 11 were Grade I, two were Grade II and three were Grade III, none being in Grade IV. This shows improvement on last year's results. For a time one of the local manufacturers failed to produce a satisfactory

ample but after close supervision of the methods of working and of sterilising with suggestions as to improvement, good samples were obtained.

Failure of electricity supplies caused trouble to ice cream dealers on two separate occasions during the year. In one of these one large supplier quickly transferred stocks to the mainland before defrosting commenced. In other cases however, the stocks melted and had to be destroyed.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOOD

(a) The handling and transport of meat has continued fairly satisfactorily. Although the porters wear protective clothing, this is not always as clean and free from grease as is desirable. There was however, no evidence of deterioration or loss of meat through bad handling or transport.

(b) Two local manufacturers of potato crisps and marshmallows closed during the year, and one disused factory formerly used for the manufacture of ice cream was used for the manufacture of sweets, the premises being well suited for the purpose.

(c) Restaurant kitchens frequently lack sufficient floor space for orderly working. The Ministry publication on this subject was drawn to the attention of proprietors.

(d) The following are details of foods found unfit for human consumption and voluntarily surrendered:—

Meat	64 tins	Cereals	22 pkts.
	428 lbs.		6 lbs.
Messages	10 tins	Milk	77 tins
	163 lbs.	Butter	3 lbs.
Cooked meat	61 lbs.	Cheese	78 pkts.
Chicken	410 lbs.		5 lbs.
Keys	2	Cream	2 tins
	7 tins	Ice Cream	96 pkts.
	136 lbs.	Chocolate	84 pkts.
Fruit & preserves ...	263 tins	Miscellaneous	23 pkts.
Vegetables	57 tins		6 lbs.
Potatoes	10 tons		8 jars

The 10 tons of potatoes referred to above was a consignment delivered to a wholesale greengrocer and found to be largely affected with blight. It was disposed of for animal feeding.

Condemned butchers' meat is collected by the Sheppey Glue & Chemical Works after treatment with naphthalen green. Other food, if suitable for animal feed, is added to the Council's kitchen waste collection, but if unsuitable is incinerated by the Council.

(e) The following is a list of foods that were condemned as a result of the flood in February :—

Fish	14 stone	Butter & margarine...	80 lb
	6 tins	Milk	4 tin
Various preserved meats	39 lbs.		18 bottl
	6 tins	Biscuits	975½ lb
Potatoes	11½ cwt.	Cake	7 lb
Other fresh vegetables	438 lbs.		9 pk
Lentils	113 lbs.	Flour	126 lb
	20 tins	Cereals	40 lb
Apples	4 bushels	Tea	3 lb
Bananas	132	Sugar	63 lb
Oranges	216	Salt	17 drw
Miscellaneous fruit	19 tins		8 pk
	83 lbs.	Vinegar	1½ cas
Jams	298 lbs.	Miscellaneous	196 pk
Cheese	4 lbs.		6 t
Cooking fats	28½ lbs.	Chocolate	62 j
		Misc. confectionery ...	50 l
			83 l

In addition, considerable amounts of various foodstuffs were withdrawn voluntarily by wholesalers and handed over to the Sanitary Department for disposal. All the unfit food was collected and disposed of by the Council, where possible being included in the kitchen waste for pig feeding.

5. FOOD PREMISES

(a) 69 inspections were made of the following food premises registered under Section 14 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938, or the Milk & Dairies Regulations, 1949:—

	No. Inspecti	
Ice cream, manufacture and sale	34	37
Preserved, etc., foods, manufacture and sale	21	24
Dairy	1	8

(b) Other food premises, by type of business, are shown below :—

Hotels, cafes, restaurants	28
Groceries, general provisions	79
Preserved, etc., food	21
Butchers' shops	13
Fish, wet	8
Fish, fried	9
Potato crisps manufacture	1
Sweets manufacture	1
Meat pies manufacture	1
Dairy	1
Greengrocery	19
Ships chandlers	1
Confectionery and sweets	13
Bakeries	3

234 inspections of these premises were made during the year.

FISH FRYING

Nine fried fish premises have operated satisfactorily and without giving rise to nuisances. One premises referred to adversely in last year's report changed hands and there has been good improvement in the standard of management there.

SHELLFISH

There is now no regular trade in the area in the collection and preparation of shellfish though one or two individuals still continue on a part-time basis. The sale of shellfish is mainly confined to one premises where supplies are obtained from outside the district. The standard of cleanliness in handling and preparing for sale at these premises has at all times been found satisfactory.

BAKEHOUSES

There are three bakeries in the area, all fairly large establishments. Mechanisation of processes is a feature of recent years and the speed at which the machines operate prevents visual detection of any accidental contamination, though on the other hand such contamination is greatly reduced. Some slight trouble with mice in a flour loft was experienced and advice given on extermination which proved effective.

9. FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

I am able to give details of samples taken under this Act in the Sheerness Urban District by courtesy of the Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures of the Kent County Council :—

Apricot Jam, F.F.S.	1	Lanoline	
Beano Pies	1	Laxative Syrup	
Beef Sausages	2	Lemon Hand Jelly	
Bicarbonate of Soda B.P.	1	Malt Vinegar	
Butter	1	Marmalade	
Cornish Pilchards	1	Meat Loaf	
Coronation Cup	1	Meat Pies	
Dressed Lobster	1	Meat Soup	
Essence of Coffee with		Milk	
Chicory	1	Milk Chocolate Mignons	
French Dressing	1	Mint	
Fruite Lolly	1	Processed Cheese	
Gin	1	Roastex Gravy Powder ...	
Ground Almonds	1	Rum	
Hogs Fat	1	Skimmed Milk Powder ...	
Ice Cream	1	Teething Powders	
Ice Lolly	1	Tinned Luncheon Meat	
Instant Postum	1	Tin of Steak Pudding ...	
Iodex	1	Vapour Liniment	
Jersey Cream	1	Whisky	

All the above samples were genuine with the exception of the following :—

- Channel Islands Milk T.T.—(a) Contained 3.4% added water
(b) Contained 2.8% added water. As a result of investigations concerning machine milking apparatus, no action was taken. Further samples genuine.
- Milk—3.3% deficient in fat. Due to improper mixing. Further samples satisfactory.
- Milk T.T.—16.7% deficient in fat. Due to improper mixing. Further samples satisfactory.
- Milk—Contained 9.5% added water. This was an informal sample on which no action could be taken. Further samples satisfactory.
- Hot Milk—(a) Contained 30% added water; (b) Contained 26% added water; (c) Contained 33% added water; (d) Contained 14% added water. Because of the floods which occurred shortly after samples taken a caution was issued.
- Malt Vinegar—Salt (not declared) 0.46%. Manufacturer notified.

SECTION VII

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health :—

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities (no mechanical power) ..	9	7	—
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (mechanical power) ..	44	30	2
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) ..	4	6	—

2. Cases in which defects were found :—

	Found	Remedied	Referred	
			to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector
able or defective sanitation (Section 7)	2	2	—	1

3. Outwork

There are three outworkers in the district all making ring apparel. No action was necessary under Sections 109 and 111.

APPENDIX A

Visits and re-visits during 1953

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Bug infested houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Verminous houses (excluding bugs)	...	...	...	...	...	...	58
Filthy conditions	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Defective sanitary accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Defective drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Drainage re-laid	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Factories and other premises under Factories Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Halls and places of entertainment	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Houses-let-in-lodgings	...	...	...	...	...	...	46
Public health interviews	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Movable dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Marine stores, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Public conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	...	46
Rats and mice	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Refuse collection	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Refuse tips	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Stables and Piggeries	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Keeping of animals	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Swimming Pools	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Water sampling	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Water supplies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Watercourses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mosquito control	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Salvage	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Inspections under Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Inspections under Housing Regulations, 1932	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Inspections in Clearance Areas	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Inspections re Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Houses inspected for overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Miscellaneous housing visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Re-housing interviews and investigations	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Infectious disease investigations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Disinfections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meat shops and vehicles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fishmongers and poulterers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fried fish shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Greengrocers and fruiterers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dairies and milk shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ice cream premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

restaurants	...	...	...	...	...	13
Food manufacturing premises	...	...	...	...	...	6
Milk sampling	...	...	...	...	...	50
Ice cream sampling	...	...	...	...	...	16
Miscellaneous food visits	...	...	...	...	...	47
Smoke, dust and fumes	...	...	...	...	...	7
Miscellaneous visits and interviews	...	...	...	...	...	163
Served foods	...	...	...	...	...	24
Registered Dairy	...	...	...	...	...	8

APPENDIX B

Nuisances and Defects remedied in 1953

Adequate sanitary accommodation	...	...	...	...	12
Effective sanitary accommodation	...	...	...	...	17
Drainage repaired	...	...	...	...	14
Drainage cleansed	...	...	...	...	58
Drainage reconstructed	...	...	...	...	4
Drains provided or renewed	...	...	...	...	5
Water pipes repaired or trapped	...	...	...	...	7
Water pipes and eaves gutters repaired	...	...	...	...	30
Leakiness remedied	...	...	...	...	56
Roofs made water tight	...	...	...	...	47
Walls and ceilings repaired	...	...	...	...	54
Windows repaired	...	...	...	...	38
Windows and ventilation repaired and improved	...	...	...	...	13
Stoves and stove repaired	...	...	...	...	10
Water supplies, defects remedied	...	...	...	...	6
Drainage paving repaired	...	...	...	...	8
Receptacles provided	...	...	...	...	21
Smoke nuisance abated	...	...	...	...	2
Accumulations of refuse abated	...	...	...	...	12
Keeping of animals abated	...	...	...	...	27
Unsanitary rooms disinfested	...	...	...	...	96
Overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	57
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	36

Sheppey Rural District Council

1953

Chairman :

H. A. Auty, J.P.

Vice-Chairman :

A. Johnson, J.P.

Councillors :

R. N. Bigg
T. H. Dale
A. P. Dummott
W. S. Evans (died August, 1953)
Mrs. H. Faulkner
Mrs. Z. Hounsell
G. Ingleton
W/Cmr. W. E. James
Lt.-Col. G. A. Keir
H. C. Love
Miss E. M. Mills
G. T. Parris
F. H. Purvis

Health Committee :

Chairman :

Lt.-Col. G. A. Keir

Councillors :

H. A. Auty, J.P.
Mrs. H. Faulkner
Mrs. Z. Hounsell
A. Johnson, J.P.
F. H. Purvis

Clerk to the Council :

S. P. Walton, A.C.I.S., F.R.V.A., F.R.ECON.S.
(until September, 1953)
S. B. Clarke (from October, 1953)

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector :

E. F. Brading, M.I.MUN.E., A.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector :

T. E. Davies

Public Health Department,
Trinity Road,
Sheerness.

To the Sheppey Rural District Council.

Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health of the Sheppey Rural District during 1953.

For the sixth successive year the Crude Birth Rate fell, being 13.3 as compared with 14.2 per 1,000 of the population in 1952, and it is necessary to refer back to the year 1930 to find an equally low rate. The Corrected Birth Rate (for comparison with other districts) was 15.1 as compared with 15.2 for England and Wales.

The Crude Death Rate was lower than the previous year, being 9.9 as compared with 11.2. The Corrected Rate was 10.5 while the Rate for England and Wales was 11.4.

Only three infants under 1 year died as compared with 10 in the previous year, the Infant Mortality Rate being 24.6 per 1,000 live births while the Rate for England and Wales was 26.8.

There was a small outbreak of Measles during the year and a moderate number of cases of Whooping Cough, but no serious incidence of infectious disease although one case of a resident whilst on holiday did occur from Poliomyelitis. There was however, another disquieting increase in the number of new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 17 being notified during 1953 as against 11 in 1952. This is twice the normal average over the past ten years and possible reasons for it are further discussed in the body of the Report.

During the year further progress has been achieved in the removal of unfit houses and in the closure of temporary accommodation at Bell Farm Camp. Eight houses in two areas were dealt with under Clearance Orders and a further five cottages condemned as individual unfit houses. The removal of tenants from these properties is proceeding satisfactorily and it is hoped the houses themselves will be demolished at an early date. Condemned houses which are allowed to remain standing for any length of time become a nuisance to health and frequently dangerous to the public. Though the total of unfit houses in the area may not be large, it is to be hoped that any scheme for their gradual removal will not be held up.

It has been very satisfactory to note that the Council very desirable main drainage scheme for the Leysdown and Warden areas appears to be in the last stages of Ministerial approval. When completed, that scheme will do much to improve the sanitary amenities at the various camps in these areas. That 22 of the 30 camps in this area, with a total population of approximately 8,000 persons during the season, have to rely on cesspools or pail closets is contrary to all public health principles in the development of an area. Furthermore, by limiting the amount of water used in the camps is unhygienic for the camp dwellers themselves.

For much of the supervision of the general sanitation of the area, food premises, water, etc., I am indebted to Mr. E. F. Brading, Surveyor, Engineer and Sanitary Inspector and to Mr. T. E. Davies, Additional Sanitary Inspector. As in the previous year special attention has been given to well supplying isolated cottages or groups. This became especially important during the period following the January floods and it is satisfactory to note that though the water from these wells does not reach the standard of purity of chlorinated pipe water, in no case was it considered necessary to stop the supply.

I would take this opportunity of thanking all members of the Council for their encouragement and kindly consideration and would especially wish to thank Mr. Brading and Mr. Davies for their very able and generous assistance freely given at all times.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

FRANK HAUXWELL.

SECTION I

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

- | | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------------|
| 1. Area | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 20,319 acres |
| 2. Population as estimated by the Registrar-General for mid 1953 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 9,200 |
| This figure is 57 higher than the estimate for 1952 and 251 more than at the time of the Census in 1951. The natural increase in population, that is the excess of births over deaths during 1953, was 31. | | | | | | |
| 3. Number of inhabited houses | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3,200 |
| This is an increase of 89 over the previous year. | | | | | | |
| 4. Rateable value | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | £54,700 |
| 5. Sum represented by penny rate | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | £212 11s. 8d. |

SECTION II

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

(a) Live Births

	Males	Females	Totals
Legitimate	57 (67)	54 (55)	111 (122)
Illegitimate ...	7 (5)	4 (3)	11 (8)
Totals	64 (72)	58 (58)	122 (130)

The total number of births during 1953 was 8 (6.1%) less than in 1952. Of all births, 9.0% were illegitimate. With exception of the year 1949 when the percentage reached a figure of 9.3%, this is the highest percentage of illegitimate births in the area during the past 29 years. The percentage for 1952 was 6.2% and for 1951 3.3%. Of all births occurring during the past ten years the percentage that was legitimate was 6.5%.

(b) Birth Rate

Crude rate per 1,000 population	13.3 (14.2)
Corrected rate per 1,000 population ...	15.1 (14.4)
Rate for England and Wales	15.5 (15.3)

(c) Still Births

	Males	Females	Totals
Legitimate	3 (2)	1 (1)	4 (3)
Illegitimate	- (-)	- (1)	- (1)
Totals	3 (2)	1 (2)	4 (4)

Stillbirths were 3.2% of the total live and still births. In 1952 the figure was 3.0%.

DEATHS

(a) The total number of deaths during the year was 91 of which 58 were males and 33 females. The corresponding figures for 1952 were—males 50, females 52, total 102.

(b) Death Rate

Crude rate per 1,000 population	9.9 (11.2)
Corrected rate per 1,000 population ...	8.9 (10.5)
Rate for England and Wales	11.4 (11.3)

(c) The following table shows the age groups in which deaths occurred:—

Figures in brackets refer to 1952.

TABLE I

	Under 1 year	1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75-
Males	3	-	-	-	4	-	3	7	22	14
Females	-	-	-	-	2	-	3	5	6	13

The average age at death was 66.7 years, being 65.2 for males and 69.6 for females. The average age at death in 1952 was 63.7, being 62.1 for males and 65.3 for females. The oldest person dying was a male aged 95 years.

(d) The following Table II shows the number of deaths as allocated to the area by the Registrar-General and classified under the 36 headings based on the Abbreviated List of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death, 1948.

TABLE II

Cause	Males	Females	Total
1 Tuberculosis, respiratory	— (—)	2 (—)	2 (—)
2 Tuberculosis, other	— (—)	— (1)	— (1)
3 Syphilitic disease	— (1)	— (—)	— (1)
4 Diphtheria	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
5 Whooping Cough	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
6 Meningococcal infections	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
7 Acute poliomyelitis	1 (—)	— (—)	1 (—)
8 Measles	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
9 Other infective and parasitic diseases ..	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
0 Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3 (1)	— (3)	3 (4)
1 Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ..	5 (4)	1 (—)	6 (4)
2 Malignant neoplasm, breast	— (—)	1 (5)	1 (5)
3 Malignant neoplasm, uterus	— (—)	1 (1)	1 (1)
4 Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	2 (6)	5 (3)	7 (9)
5 Leukaemia, aleukaemia	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
6 Diabetes	— (—)	— (2)	— (2)
7 Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	7 (6)	5 (2)	12 (8)
8 Coronary disease, angina	5 (3)	2 (8)	7 (11)
9 Hypertension with heart disease	1 (2)	1 (1)	2 (3)
0 Other heart disease	10 (11)	7 (15)	17 (26)
1 Other circulatory disease	4 (1)	1 (4)	5 (5)
2 Influenza	— (—)	1 (—)	1 (—)
3 Pneumonia	4 (1)	1 (—)	5 (1)
4 Bronchitis	4 (3)	— (2)	4 (5)
5 Other diseases of respiratory system ..	3 (1)	— (1)	3 (2)
6 Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1 (—)	— (1)	1 (1)
7 Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
8 Nephritis and nephrosis	1 (1)	— (—)	1 (1)
9 Hyperplasia of prostate	1 (2)	— (—)	— (2)
0 Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
1 Congenital malformations	— (2)	— (—)	— (2)
2 Other defined and ill-defined diseases ..	4 (3)	4 (3)	8 (6)
3 Motor vehicle accidents	1 (—)	— (—)	1 (—)
4 All other accidents	1 (1)	— (—)	1 (1)
5 Suicide	— (1)	1 (—)	1 (1)
6 Homicide and operations of war	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
All causes	58 (50)	33 (52)	91(102)

There was no significant alteration in the causes of deaths occurring during 1953. With the decreased number of total deaths occurring during the year, there was a corresponding decrease in the numbers attributable to Heart disease and associated conditions and to those from Malignant Disease, but these two causes together account for approximately 67% of all deaths (Heart, etc., 47%, Malignant disease 20%).

3. INFANT MORTALITY

The number of deaths of infants under one year of age was three as compared with five in 1952, three in 1951 and four in each of the years 1950, 1949 and 1948. The Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births was 24.6 as compared with 38.5 in the previous year. The rate for England and Wales was 26.8.

Details of the deaths are given in the following table :

TABLE III

Cause	Sex	Age	Place of birth	Place of death
Broncho Pneumonia	M	7 weeks	Home	Hospital
Haemorrhage in lungs and Suprarenal Prothrombin deficiency ..	M	5 days	Hospital	Hospital
Imperforate Anus with recto-urethral fistula (operation when 2 days old) ..	M	1 week	Home	Hospital

SECTION III

INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

THEIR PREVALENCE AND CONTROL

1. There were 166 cases of infectious disease notified in 1953 as compared with 101 in 1952. This increase was entirely due to an outbreak of Measles during the summer months in the parishes of Eastchurch, Warden and Leven, 115 cases occurring as compared with 33 in the previous year. The number notified during 1953 was however less than half the incidence in the 1951 outbreak.

Scarlet Fever and Whooping Cough were no more prevalent than in 1952 while for the fifth successive year no cases of Diphtheria occurred.

One case of Poliomyelitis with Paralysis was notified towards the end of the year but this patient made a good recovery.

ecovery. It will be noted however that one death is attributed to Poliomyelitis in the following table. This occurred in a resident of the area on holiday outside the Island so that though the notification was not received in this district, the death being the death of a person normally resident in the area has to be included in the area statistics.

The total cases notified, the number admitted to hospital and the total deaths from each disease as shown in the Registrar-General's classification of deaths are given in Table IV below :—

TABLE IV

Disease	Total	Total (1952)	Males	Females	Removed to Hospital	Deaths	Deaths (1952)
Scarlet Fever	9	(7)	6	3	-	-	(-)
Whooping Cough	29	(33)	12	17	2	-	(-)
Diphtheria	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Measles	115	(33)	53	62	-	-	(-)
Acute Pneumonia (primary or influenza)	9	(21)	5	4	-	5	(2)
Erysipelas	1	(4)	1	-	-	-	(-)
meningococcal Infection	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	(2)	1	-	1	1	(-)
Enteric	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Intermittent Pyrexia	2	(1)	-	2	-	-	(-)
Smallpox	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Typhoid	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Malaria	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Food Poisoning	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Totals	166	(101)	78	88	3	6	(2)

2. Table V shows the age distribution of cases of infectious disease notified during 1953.

TABLE V

Disease	At all ages	Age groups							
		Under 1 year	1 - 2	3 - 4	5 - 9	10 - 14	15 - 24	25 - 44	45 - 64
Scarlet Fever	9	-	-	3	6	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	29	3	8	7	11	-	-	-	-
Measles	115	3	16	21	69	3	1	2	-
Pneumonia	9	-	-	1	1	1	-	2	3
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Erysipelas	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis (P)	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Totals	166	6	24	32	87	4	4	4	3

3. TUBERCULOSIS

Seventeen new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during 1953. This showed a still further increase on the unusually high number of notifications (11) received in 1952 and is the highest recorded in any year since records have been kept, viz., 1926. In fact on only five occasions during the preceding 27 years has the number of notifications received in any one year exceeded seven. The reason for the increase during the past two years is not very apparent, but may be that with the removal of the Chest Clinic from Sheppey to more suitable premises at the Sheppey General Hospital where every facility for diagnosis exists, that patients are availing themselves of these facilities more readily, that previous old doubtful cases are now being more accurately diagnosed. There is also the factor that greatly improved methods of treatment in latter years has given the tubercular patient a far more hopeful outlook and the doubtful case is not now so hesitant in seeking expert opinion. There is also another factor which might have some influence in increasing the number of cases in the area. Examination of the previous histories of the 17 new cases notified in

shows that 7 of these had been resident in the area for less than three years and that many of them had definitely moved into the area because of indifferent health. It seems not unreasonable to suppose that some at least of these were already suffering from undiagnosed Tuberculosis.

Though the picture in regard to notifications has not been so good during the past two years, it is gratifying to note that the death rate for Pulmonary Tuberculosis during 1953, namely 0.22 per 1,000 population is the sixth lowest since 1926 and that assessing this rate over ten year periods since 1926 there has been a reduction in the yearly death rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis from 0.72 per 1,000 during the period 1926-35 to a yearly rate of only 0.29 per 1,000 for the ten years ending 1953—a reduction of approximately 60%.

During 1953 only one new case of Non-Pulmonary tuberculosis was notified and no deaths were attributed to this form of the disease.

Table VI gives particulars of new cases and deaths during the year, while Table VII gives a summary of cases on the Tuberculosis Register.

TABLE VI

Ages	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 to 5 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 to 15 years	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 to 25 years	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 to 35 years	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—
35 to 45 years	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
45 to 55 years	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 to 65 years	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	10	7	—	1	—	2	—	—

TABLE VII
SUMMARY OF TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	M	F	M	F	
On Register, 1st January, 1953 ..	31	32	14	10	87
New notifications	10	7	—	1	18
Cases not notified before death ..	—	—	—	—	—
Cases restored to Register	—	—	—	—	—
Transfers from other districts ..	2	—	—	—	2
Deaths during year	—	2	—	—	2
Recovered	—	—	—	—	—
Removed from district	—	—	—	—	—
Diagnosis not confirmed	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths of cases on Register but not due to Tuberculosis	1	—	—	—	1
Number of cases remaining on Register, 31st Dec., 1953 ..	42	37	14	11	104

4. DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer for following figures relating to the state of immunisation against Diphtheria of children under 15 years of age.

TABLE VIII

Year of Birth	Primary Immunisation in 1953	Reinforcing Inoculation in 1953	Total number Immunised at end of 1953	Percentage of related population
1953	13	—	13	55.7 (64.4)
1952	83	—	96	
1951	13	—	125	
1950	4	1	114	
1949	3	2	122	
1948	2	25	162	83.7 (89.7)
1947	2	42	161	
1946	—	28	136	
1945	—	24	122	
1944	—	10	110	
1943	—	2	92	
1942	—	1	86	
1941	—	1	103	
1940	—	—	105	
1939	—	—	106	
Totals	120	136	1653	73.2 (81.3)

From these figures and those of previous years it would appear that there has been a gradual decline during the past five years in the number of children under five years of age protected by immunisation against Diphtheria. In 1949 the percentage of such children was 68.2, whereas in 1953 it had fallen to only 55.7%. This is greatly to be regretted. It would seem that the present absence of this disease in the area tends to lull the parents of young children into a sense of false security and they fail to realise the importance of immunisation in the protection of their children. It is only when at least 75% of all children under five years of age have been efficiently immunised can an area be considered reasonably protected, and if the present immunity from the disease in the Rural District is to be maintained the gradual decline in immunisation in recent years must not only be halted but be reversed.

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

I am also indebted to the County Medical Officer for the particulars of persons vaccinated against Smallpox during 1953 contained in the following table:—

TABLE IX

Age group	Primary Vaccinations	Re-Vaccinations
Under 1 ..	46 (40)	— (—)
1 to 4	49 (31)	2 (2)
5 to 14	4 (6)	10 (7)
15 and over ..	16 (18)	25 (21)
Totals ..	115 (95)	37 (30)

SECTION IV

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES AND SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. WATER SUPPLY

(a) The area is supplied from three bores belonging to the Sheppey Water Company and one belonging to the Rural District Council. The Council also have a second bore at Leysdown as a standby but this was in operation only during the summer season and for one week later in the year to augment the supply in the Warden and Leysdown areas. The Sheppey General Hospital also has its own private bore which now supplies its complete requirements.

During the year the following quantities were pumped from the five bores referred to :—

Sheppey R.D.C. :

Warden Springs Pumping Station	...	11,757,000	gallons
Leysdown Pumping Station	... ..	1,816,090	gallons

Sheppey Water Co. :

Wallend Waterworks	... ..	50,950,000	gallons
Eastchurch Pumping Station	... ..	30,117,000	gallons
Minster Pumping Station	... ..	23,071,000	gallons

Of the amount pumped by the Sheppey Water Company 16,539,000 gallons were supplied to the Sheerness U.D. therefore the total consumption in the Rural District was 101,172,090 which gives a daily consumption of 30.1 gallons per head of the resident population. Allowing for a doubt of the population during the summer months due to the influx of visitors, the actual consumption per head would probably be about 24 gallons daily.

(b) 55 samples were taken from the Warden and Leysdown supplies for bacteriological examination during the year. At one period the water in the Warden Reservoir showed some serious contamination and as this was considered to be occurring in the Reservoir itself, the Reservoir was cleansed and later covered to prevent any recurrence. Samples from a dead-end main supplying one farm were found consistently unsatisfactory but improved when the main was converted to a circulating supply.

(c) 36 samples were taken from the Sheppey Water Company's supply. Taken at the source, treated samples were always very satisfactory but samples taken from domestic taps at various points of distribution of the piped supply occasionally did not have such good bacteriological reports. Follow-up samples taken from the sources however proved satisfactory.

(d) During the year further supervision was given to the wells supplying outlying districts. As a result of the floods at the end of January some of these wells were contaminated to a greater or lesser degree by sea-water. Those at Shellness Hamlet, at Mussell Marsh and at Great Bells Farm were seriously affected. Fortunately owing to the season of the year there was no call on the water at Shellness Hamlet or at Mussell Marsh, these being used entirely during the summer season by visitors. At Great Bells Farm however, it was necessary to cart water until the well cleared itself. The well at Black Cottages which supplies Mocketts Farm and some cottages, though surrounded by sea water, escaped pollution and was considered suitable for continued use but was kept under constant supervision.

A total of 49 samples of well water were taken during the year. Many of these were taken in connection with possibilities of contamination during the flood period but others not liable to such contamination were also sampled periodically so as to assess their suitability for drinking water. As is to be expected, none of these attained the quality of piped chlorinated water but in no case was it considered necessary to have the well put out of use though storage tanks still require constant supervision.

(e) The number of houses supplied with the source and method of distribution was as follows:—

	From public supplies		Private or communal wells	
	Tap in house	Standpipe	No. of wells	No. of houses
Hamster ...	2,437	—	—	—
Church ...	426	25	1	1
Hamden ...	134	—	—	—
Hamdown ...	220	—	2	70*
Hamby	—	—	5	15
Hamley ...	1	—	—	—

These are mainly bungalows and chalets at Shellness Hamlet used as summer residences only and also beach chalets along Shellness beach.

In addition, all camping sites are supplied with water mains from public sources.

2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

(a) The following statement shows in summary form the method of sewage disposal throughout the district :—

Parish	Number of properties, including camps		
	Main drainage	Cesspools	Pail closets
Minster	2388	38	91
Eastchurch	163	192	170
Leysdown	97	123	71
Warden	—	131	19
Elmley & Harty	—	24	20

(b) At Minster practically all houses are connected with main drainage. Sewage from the area is collected either at the Scrapsgate or Sheerness East Disposal Works and finally discharged into a ditch which ultimately discharges into the sea.

At Eastchurch only approximately one-third of the premises in the area are on main drainage, the remainder being approximately one-third on cesspools and one-third with pail closets. The sewage from main drainage is dealt with at the Eastchurch Disposal Works and is ultimately piped to Windmill Creek.

For the Leysdown and Warden areas, main drainage is available for only about one-fifth of the premises and the remainder are all in Leysdown. As these areas are the main centres for holiday camps and are subject to considerable influx of visitors during the season, it is hoped it will be possible to carry out at an early date the Council's proposed scheme for main drainage.

3. DISPOSAL OF REFUSE

Refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping on land adjacent to the Scrapsgate Disposal Works. The tip is systematically treated for the suppression of rats and flies.

4. SCHOOLS SANITATION

All schools in the area are on main drainage and general sanitary conditions have been found satisfactory.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Public conveniences for both sexes exist at Halfway, Scrapsgate, Minster, Eastchurch and Leysdown, and all are kept satisfactorily. In only two of these, namely at Leysdown and Scrapsgate, are washing facilities available. This is a very serious omission.

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

(a) 12 premises were disinfected after infectious disease.

(b) The following disinfestations were carried out during the year :—

			Council houses	Other houses
Bed bugs ...	...	...	—	2
Fleas ...	...	...	—	1
Ants ...	...	...	—	1

MOSQUITO CONTROL

Cowsheds and pigsties were sprayed with D.D.T. in early spring and accumulations of water and ditches in the vicinity of dwellings were sprayed regularly with Malariol during spring and summer.

RODENT CONTROL

One full-time operator is employed and the following details of surface infestations found and treated during year :—

Infestations treated by Local Authority	209
Infestations treated by occupier	5
Farm surveys	134
Farms treated	43
Number of survey visits	1709
Number of treatment visits	1362

As results of tests and treatments carried out during the previous two years showed almost complete absence of infestation, no sewer treatment was carried out during 1953.

CAMPING SITES

The following are details of the camping sites in the year :—

	Sites	Dwellings
Occupied sites and dwellings actually accommodated	31	1993
Approved sites not yet developed	7	275
Number of camps with mains water supplies	31	
Number of camps connected to main drainage	8	845
Camps with own disposal works	1	120
Camps served by cesspools	17	775
Camps served by pail closets	5	253

From these figures it will be seen that though all camps have a mains water supply, only eight are connected to main drainage, whilst 17 are served by cesspools and five have pail closets. As it is estimated that there are at peak periods during the season at least 8,000 persons occupying accommodation so far developed, this is a very serious matter and again stresses the urgency of the Council's proposed scheme of main drainage for these areas. At present many cesspools are being used to capacity and the slightest delay in emptying quickly leads to nuisance. Another factor in the lack of main drainage is that it necessarily leads to limitation in amount of water used by a limitation of the number of water points provided. In a holiday camp this should not be the case. In the interests of cleanliness and hygiene, campers should at all times have within easy reach an ample supply of water. Furthermore, in practically all camps at present means of disposal of dirty water are quite insufficient with the result that much of it is thrown on the land. Though nature can do much to purify this between camping seasons, the nature of the soil in this area is such that in time this natural purification will fail and nuisance will arise.

10. MORTUARY

A nominal fee is paid annually to the Medway Gravesend Hospital Management Committee for the use of the mortuary facilities at the Sheppey General Hospital.

11. INSPECTIONS

Details of inspections carried out by the Sanitary Inspector are shown in Appendix A.

12. NUISANCES

Details of nuisances abated or remedied are shown in Appendix B.

SECTION V

HOUSING

The following figures show building progress during 1953 and since the end of the war :—

	Minster	Leysdown	Warden	Eastchurch	Total
Council houses—					
Completed in 1953 ...	61	—	—	4	65
Completed since the war :					
Permanent	224	6	—	22	252
Temporary	26	—	—	6	32
Under construction ...	29	8	—	12	49
Private enterprise—					
Completed in 1953 ...	30	2	—	1	33
Completed since the war	122	4	1	5	132
Under construction ...	22	5	—	2	29

The number of houses built by the Council and by private enterprise during the year totalled 98 which is 41 more than in 1952 and makes 1953 easily the best year since the war. The number of Council houses completed during the year (65) was 26 more than in the previous year and they were all 3-bedroom type. Of the 49 under construction at the end of the year, 32 are 1-bedroom flats and 17 3-bedroom houses.

23 families in temporary accommodation at Bell Farm were re-housed during the year and the huts at that camp have been empty since November. Negotiations are in progress for handing back the camp to the Army authorities.

The number of applicants on the Council's waiting list at the end of the year was 222.

UNFIT HOUSES

(a) During 1953, reports by the Sanitary Inspector on small areas comprising a total of eight houses were submitted to the Council and ultimately were the subject of Improvement Orders. These were—

- (i) Nos. 2, 4, 6, 26 and 28 High Street, Eastchurch.
- (ii) Nos. 71, 73, 75 High Street, Eastchurch.

None of these were demolished before the end of year.

(b) Reports for action under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, were also submitted in respect of the following

1 and 2 Scrapsgate Road, Minster.

Garretts Farm Cottage, Eastchurch.

26 Chequers Road, Minster.

School Cottage, High Street, Eastchurch.

All the above have since been demolished with the exception of School Cottage.

(c) In addition to the above, 3 houses the subject of Clearance Order and 2 the subject of action under Section of the Housing Act in previous years were demolished. These were :—

4, 5 and 6 Swale View Terrace, Minster.

12 and 95 High Street, Eastchurch.

5. Action taken by the Health Department in respect of housing during the year is summarised below :—

(A)—INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

1 (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose

2 Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation

3 Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation

(B)—REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers

C)—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

1	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936	Nil
2	Proceedings under Public Health Acts ...	Nil
3	Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
	(a) Number of houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	5
	(b) Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders (including Orders made before 1953)	5
	(c) Number of houses demolished by informal action	Nil
4	Proceedings under Section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
	(a) Number of houses in respect of which Clearance Orders approved	8
	(b) Number of houses demolished as a result of Clearance Orders (including those made before 1953)	3

SECTION VI

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK SUPPLY

There are nine distributors of milk in the district retailing the following designations :—

Pasteurised	...	...	2
T.T. (Pasteurised)	...	...	2
Sterilised	...	...	5
Non-designated	...	...	2

Both of the non-designated milks are locally produced samples taken, including one for biological examination, proved satisfactory. Of 12 samples of Pasteurised Milk, 11 passed the prescribed tests. The latter were traced to Pasteurising plants on the Island and as the County

are the licensing authority for such plants, the facts were reported to the County Sanitary Authority. The plants concerned were overhauled by the manufacturers under the supervision of the County Sanitary Inspector and further samples proved satisfactory.

2. ICE CREAM

There is one manufacturer of Ice Cream registered at 32 premises are also registered for its sale and storage. Samples were taken during the year and all were classified as Grade I. All premises were kept satisfactorily.

3. MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

The following items of food were found unfit for human consumption and were voluntarily surrendered :—

Beef	...	...	...	...	94 lbs.
Fish	...	...	...	...	4 stone
Fish (tinned)	...	...	...	...	1 lb.
Meat (tinned)	...	...	...	...	24 lbs.
Fruit (tinned)	...	...	...	...	4 lbs.
Vegetables (tinned)	...	...	...	...	2 lbs.
Milk (tinned)	...	...	...	...	3 lbs.
Cooking fat	...	...	...	...	14 lbs.

It is the practice for fresh meat after condemnation to be returned by the butcher to the depot under a guarantee that it will not be used for human consumption, whilst tinned foods and fish are disposed of with other refuse at the Scrapgate tip.

4. FOOD PREMISES

(a) 22 inspections were made of the following food premises registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, or the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 :—

	Premises	Inspections
Ice Cream, manufacture and sale	33	38
Preserved foods, manufacture and sale	1	12
Dairies	1	4

(b) Other food premises by type of business are shown below :—

	Number
Cafes and restaurants	22
Confectionery	4
Tea rooms	3
Butchers	7
Fish	5
General stores, including greengrocery ...	44

112 inspections of these premises were made during the year.

FRIED FISH SHOPS

There are five fish frying establishments and all are conducted satisfactorily. In addition, two mobile vans operate during the summer.

SHELLFISH

There is no commercial collection of shellfish and the public have been warned by posters of the special risks involved in the eating of cockles collected on the foreshore at Lymington and Leysdown.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

I am indebted to the Chief Inspector of the Weights and Measures Department of the County Council for the following details of samples taken in the area during the year :—

Worcester Mints	1	Liver and Bacon Paste ...	1
Worcester Sugar	1	Malt Vinegar	1
Worcester Sausages	1	Mendaco Tablets	1
Worcester Beer	1	Milk	19
Worcester Spread	1	Skim Dried Milk Powder	1
Worcester Coffee	1	Snax Pork Slice	1
Worcester Sterilized Milk	1	Tomato Soup	1
Worcester Nuts	1	Valderma	1
Worcester Almonds	1	Whisky	1

All the above samples were genuine with the exception of :—

Valderma (a skin ointment)—Pot. hydroxyquinoline sulph. 0.07; claimed 0.2%. Probably due to faulty mixing.

Further sample satisfactory.

Milk—Contained 3.8% added water.

No action. Further samples satisfactory.

SECTION VII

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health:—

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities (no mechanical power) ..	12	18	—
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (mechanical power) ..	6	10	—
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) ..	3	4	—

2. Cases in which defects were found.—Nil.

3. Outwork (Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of work	No. of outworkers	Action under Sections 110 & 111
Making of wearing apparel ...	1	Nil

APPENDIX A

VISITS AND RE-VISITS DURING 1953

accumulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
ashbins	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
bug infested houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
germinous houses (excluding bugs)	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
unhealthy conditions	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
ineffective drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	63
drainage re-laid	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
factories and other premises under Factories Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	51
public health interviews	...	...	...	...	...	...	95
unavailable dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	...	633
public conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
rats and mice	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
refuse collection	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
refuse tips	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
shops and Piggeries	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
stopping of animals	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
water sampling	...	...	...	...	...	...	144
water supplies	...	...	...	...	...	...	75
watercourses	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
mosquito control	...	...	...	...	...	...	61
inspections under Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	89
inspections in Clearance Areas	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
inspections re Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
houses inspected for overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
miscellaneous housing visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
housing interviews and investigations	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
contagious Disease investigations	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
infections	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
at shops and vehicles	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
meatmongers and poulterers	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
seafood fish shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
meat shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
grocers and fruiterers	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
dairies and milk shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
cream premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
restaurants	...	...	...	...	...	...	49
water sampling	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
cream sampling	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
miscellaneous food visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	43
smoke, dust and fumes	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
miscellaneous visits and interviews	...	...	...	...	...	...	87

APPENDIX B

NUISANCES AND DEFECTS REMEDIED IN 1953

Insufficient sanitary accommodation	...	...	...
Defective sanitary accommodation	...	...	...
Drainage repaired	...	...	...
Drainage cleansed	...	...	...
Drainage reconstructed	...	...	...
Sinks provided or renewed	...	...	...
Rain water pipes and eaves gutters repaired	...	...	...
Dampness remedied	...	...	...
Walls and ceilings repaired	...	...	...
Floors repaired	...	...	...
Windows and ventilation repaired and improved	...	...	...
Fireplaces and stove repaired	...	...	...
Refuse receptacles provided	...	...	...
Accumulations of refuse abated	...	...	...
Keeping of animals abated	...	...	...
Verminous rooms disinfested	...	...	...
Miscellaneous	...	...	...

SPECIAL APPENDIX

Special Reports by the Chief Officers concerned to their respective Councils on matters arising out of the flood damage on the night of 31st January—1st February, 1953.

BOROUGH OF QUEENBOROUGH

Extracts from Report by Mr. W. F. Dodds,

Borough Surveyor.

As it became obvious late on the evening of Saturday, 1st January, that the tide due to reach its highest point at 4.47 a.m. on 1st February would cause flooding, the whole of the outdoor staff was called out at 11.45 p.m. and immediately set about the task of warning householders in the South Street, High Street and West Street areas. The tide continued to rise rapidly until 1.00 a.m. and at 1.30 a.m. reached a level which was 2ft. 7ins. higher than any previously recorded at Queenborough. The outdoor staff was fully employed during the whole of the night and on Sunday, 1st February, with the clearance of debris, the distribution of disinfectants, and in rendering assistance to householders.

Breaches in the sea wall occurred near Queenborough Pier (at four points), between the Chalk Wharf and Alsager Avenue and at several points to the north-west of Kingsferry Bridge. Large contingents of soldiers have now almost completed the sandbagging of the breaches near Queenborough Pier, and naval parties have been dealing with those near Kingsferry Bridge. Work has commenced with labour from local factories on the section between Alsager Avenue and the Chalk Wharf and it is hoped that additional military labour will soon be placed at this point.

Sixty-seven houses in Rushenden Road, High Street, West Street, South Street and Pier Cottages were flooded at the height of the tide, but only twenty-three of these (18 at Pier Cottages and 5 in Rushenden Road) were so low-lying as to be flooded after the tide receded. The occupants of these twenty-three houses have been evacuated, the Council providing temporary accommodation for those who did not go to relatives and friends. A preliminary survey of the 67 properties has not disclosed serious structural damage in any case.

The water supply and sewerage system were fortunate not affected by the flood. The telephone service and the electricity supply failed, but have since been repaired. The bus services to Sheerness have been interrupted in both directions by flooded roads. The road to the mainland under water to a depth of about three feet, and the railway to Sittingbourne has been undermined at points in the vicinity of Kingsferry Bridge.

Large areas of land were left under water in the Rushenden, Barrowsgate and Whiteway Road areas. Cuttings were made in the old counter wall at the end of Borough Road to allow these areas to be drained into Queenborough Creek. These changed the direction of flow of the drainage ditch which runs from Queenborough Corner to Westminster, and quickly cleared away flood water from the Barrowsgate area. Water from the Whiteway Road and Rushenden Road areas took longer to drain, but both areas have now been satisfactorily dealt with.

All possible assistance is being given to affected householders, and arrangements are being made to obtain the use of a drying machine from the R.A.F.

12th February, 1953.

SHEERNESS URBAN DISTRICT

Report by Mr. Jack Griffiths, M.B.E., Clerk of the Council
on the Flood Emergency.

I beg to submit my report on the flood emergency as follows:—

1. The Engineer and Surveyor and his staff were on duty throughout the night of Saturday, 31st January, 1953, and as soon as it became daylight and the Engineer and Surveyor was able to ascertain the full extent of the damage to the sea walls, parties were organised for sealing breaches in the sea defences.

2. By daybreak on Sunday, the 1st February, the flood gates were open, the telephone manned, most of the staff had reported for duty, offers of help were pouring in and young officers were endeavouring to make a rapid assessment of the extent of the damage.

3. A special meeting of the Council in Committee was convened for Sunday afternoon, 1st February, and an Engineer

Emergency Committee appointed consisting of the Chairman of the Council and Councillors Davie and Coats. The Engineer and Surveyor reported generally on the position and immediate steps were taken to conserve the water supply.

4. The Emergency Committee has met daily since the 1st February with the exception of Sundays.

5. The Emergency Committee dealt with a variety of subjects, kept a constant watch on the risk of epidemics, gave press conferences, issued statements to the public and received day-to-day reports on progress made and attended the Joint Conferences held in H.M. Dockyard, Sheerness.

6. The Committee encouraged families in flooded houses to leave the district as it was thought this would be not only better for their health but would alleviate the demand on the water supply. The County Council (District Office) in conjunction with the Red Cross and W.V.S. opened a rest centre and arrangements were made with the Jeppay Rural District Council for families who wished to have to be billeted in the Rural District. About 3-400 passed through the rest centre but most of these made their own arrangements for accommodation. Evacuation commenced on Monday and continued until 5th February. The evacuees were brought to the Broadway Meals Centre, fed, and then either made their own arrangements to go to friends and relations in unaffected Sheerness areas or were evacuated from the reception centre (at the Technical Schools) to the Jeppay Rural District where billets were found for same. All ninety people were evacuated to the Rural District.

7. **Meals**—Two school kitchens (Broadway and Jefferson Road) provided hot meat and vegetable soups, two vehicles (later increased to three) toured the areas of deepest flooding, i.e., Clyde and Unity Streets and the new housing estates. One issue also included food received fromatham. This service continued in the worst affected areas daily until and including 5th February, when the Emergency Committee decided to discontinue emergency meals, domestic facilities being accessible and gas, and in most places electricity services being on. In the areas above mentioned, enquiries re maternity cases, aged, infirm and sick were made, and ambulances dealt with same on medical recommendations. At the reception centre the W.V.S. organised a clothing depot, the Red Cross food supplies (tinned) and blanket and mattress supplies for the evacuated. The Senior Sanitary Inspector repeatedly checked the adequacy of the arrangements for feeding, clothing, bedding and mobile medical service, and was satisfied that the need was well met.

Issue of emergency tinned food and clothing was organised by the Red Cross and W.V.S. respectively. The St. John Ambulance service also assisted in these services.

8. An information office was opened in the rating office on 4th February, and the Treasurer acted as Information Officer. Enquiries which averaged 300 per day dealt with:—

Water Supply; Evacuation; Boat Ferry Service; Petrol Supplies; Postal arrangements; Information to Traders; Coal; Carpet cleaning; Flood Relief Fund.

Eight news bulletins were issued and the office is still dealing with applications for assistance from the Chairman's Flood Relief Fund.

9. The Emergency Committee were inevitably involved in the question of food supplies, but the Ministry of Food and other Government departments, the Navy and the Army worked most valiantly and set up an organisation for ferrying in supplies of food and essential commodities. The trades concerned made arrangements for the delivery of consignments to the docks at Chatham and organised the collection of the food from the docks in Sheerness.

10. **Distinguished visitors.** On the 4th February, the Island was honoured with a visit from Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent, who visited various points in the district and afterwards called at the Council Offices when the Mayor of Queenborough, the Chairman of the Sheppey Rural District Council and the Council's Officers were present.

The First Lord of the Admiralty and the Commandant-in-Chief, The Nore, called upon the Chairman.

11. **Gifts of Food.** Considerable quantities of food were presented to the Town from various sources. When the Emergency Meals Service was operating these were distributed through that source, but latterly the four lady Councillors have undertaken the distribution of certain commodities.

12. A gift through the County Council of some gallons of detergent was made available to the public as well as disinfectant for cleansing their houses and chattels.

13. The R.A.F. have assisted by supplying five space heaters and these are now operating throughout the district.

14. **Chairman's Flood Relief Fund.** The Chairman and the Council launched a fund to meet the immediate needs of people suffering distress from the flood. Organisation

d individuals have subscribed most generously and most the money is being used in supplying coal to enable people dry their houses.

h February, 1953.

Report by Mr. K. Scott, M.I.Mun.E., A.M.I.S.E..

Engineer and Surveyor

1. Sea Defences.

There were seven major breaches along the length of the Sea Wall from the Town Pier to the Queenborough Pier, two of these being within the Urban boundary, totalling 195ft. in length and five within the Borough of Queenborough totalling 554ft. in length. Along the length of the wall from the Ravelin Battery to Barton's Point there were separate areas of damage as follows:—

1. Neptune Terrace Jetty.
2. Rear of Esplanade adjoining Co-operative Society's Coal Yard.
3. Coal Pier—Cheyney Rock.
4. Length of wall from Cheyney Rock to Ship-on-Shore.
5. A small section of wall between Ship-on-Shore and A.A. Range.

Between Barton's Point and the White House at Scraps there were at least twelve major breaches in the clay counter wall totalling at least 450ft. in length and at these particular points the counter wall was completely breached.

As soon as daybreak occurred a labour force was organised to deal with the breaches which had occurred in the Cheyney Rock area and a commencement was made in clearing debris from the highways in the area to allow vehicles to obtain access to the parts where emergency repairs were required. A survey was made of the wall from the town to Queenborough Pier, but it was not possible to commence any work on this section of the wall until supplies of sandbags were made available, as the 1,000 sandbags which the Council held in reserve were immediately used in the Cheyney Rock area. During the period from the 1st January to the 14th February the Council's own labour organisation supplemented by additional temporary casual labour and labour loaned from the Dockyard dealt with a total of some 749ft. of emergency repairs to Sea Walls from the town to Queenborough Pier and this section of the defences was left by the Kent Rivers Board to be dealt with by them on their behalf.

Valuable assistance was given in connection with the breaches by the Military Authorities and Colonel Keene supplied working parties who operated in conjunction with the Council's employees.

Steps were also taken to seal off the danger zones at Westminster along the Railway Line and a sandbag wall was built across the line at the end of Cromwell Road. Steps were also taken to build temporary defences on either side of the Canal at the entrance to the town at the Klondyke to prevent the further ingress of the sea at this point.

The flooding of the large area north-east of the High Street covering Park Road, St. Helen's Road, Coronation Road, Wellesley Road, Unity Street, Clyde Street, Winstanley Road, Galway Road, Cavour Road and parts of Invicta Road, Berridge Road and Alma Road were undoubtedly caused by the extensive breaches which occurred in the Sea Wall between Barton's Point and Scrapsgate which allowed the water to surge across the marshes and enter the town at the Klondyke.

Flooding of the New Housing Estates and the streets along Georges Avenue, Wheatsheaf Gardens, Second Avenue, Fifth Avenue and Victoria Street, areas together with isolated areas in Rose Street, Hope Street, and Russell Street and Railway Road areas was caused by the major breaches in the wall at Westminster.

The initial emergency supply of sandbags was made possible by air lift and on Monday the 2nd instant, no fewer than 20,000 sandbags were dropped by air from planes sent out from West Malling Aerodrome. The principal dropping ground for these sandbags was at a point near Queenborough corner from where they were picked up by lorries and brought into Sheerness.

Subsequently the bulk of the sandbags used for filling the breaches were obtained from the Naval Stores Office H.M. Dockyard.

During the later stages filled sandbags were also delivered from various points on the main land by arrangement with the Kent Rivers Board, but this was not possible until road access had been re-established.

2. Sewerage.

The whole of the Town's sewage system was temporarily put out of action by the volume of flood water which entered the town and which caused flooding of the electric motors and switch gear at three of the six Sewage Pumping Stations. The three stations affected were Barton's Point

ager Road and Richmond Street, where the whole equipment was put out of action. The motors at the Westminster Main Outfall Station were not damaged but were temporarily put out of action by the failure of the electricity supply. Similarly the electric motors at the Canal Pumping Station were put out of action due to the failure of the electricity supply, but fortunately these motors and the switch gear were not damaged by flood water. When the electricity supply was partially restored during Monday, the 2nd February, it was possible to restart the pumps at these two stations and this assisted in dealing with the flood water.

The St. Georges Avenue Pumping Station was not badly affected by flooding and it was possible to bring the pumps at this station into use when the D.C. supply in the Georges Avenue area was restored.

The detritus chambers at the Canal Sewage Pumping Station were badly affected by the large amount of grit and other matter brought down the sewers by the flooding, and a breakdown occurred in the screens and dredgers at this station when pumping was resumed. The whole of this accumulation had to be cleared before the screens and dredgers could be got to work again. I obtained a portable compressor from the Naval Authorities to assist in this work, and compressed air was blown into the detritus chambers to stir up the sludge and grit in the tanks, thus making it possible to release the screen and dredger gear. This work was carried out under extremely difficult conditions and the employees engaged on this task worked from 7 a.m. in the morning until well after midnight on one day to complete the operation.

Very valuable assistance in connection with the drying of electric motors and switch gear, etc., was given by two voluntary helpers who offered their services. One of these volunteers, Mr. Firman, who is on the staff of the Notts County Council as an electrical engineer and who found himself stranded at Sheerness, gave his services and Mr. L., a local resident of 100 Invicta Road, Electrical Engineer, also gave his services. Letters of appreciation have been sent to both of these gentlemen.

At no time was there a major breakdown in the sewerage system caused by the fracture or damage to the sewers themselves and the temporary failure of the sewerage system was due entirely to the pumping stations being put out of action by flood water. Contrary to certain reports which appeared in the daily press there was never, in my opinion, any real danger of disease through the failure of the sewerage system.

3. Water Supply.

All the Council's bore-holes were put out of action due to the entry of salt water into the bores. At Sheerness E. pumping station the bore-hole was completely covered with sea water to a depth of some 12 inches, but the pumping station itself was not flooded. The water reached to within 2 inches from the engine room floor. The stoke hole and boiler house were flooded to a depth of just over 18 inches.

At the Trinity Road Pumping Station the sea water could not reach the bore-holes but infiltration of salt water occurred through the sub-soil and entered the engine room bore-hole at varying depths below ground level through the joints of the cast iron cylinders forming the walls of the top of the dug well, which goes down for some 300ft. before the bore-hole commences. Water from the sub-soil also found its way down the side of the bore tubes at the front bore-hole and apparently entered the bore-hole where the tubes were perforated as they pass through the water bearing Thanet sand strata.

Both pumping stations were put out of action from this cause and because there was also a failure in the electric supply, which prevented the pumps being put into operation again until Wednesday, the 4th instant. As soon as it was possible to commence pumping the pumping stations were started up again and the water was pumped to waste from both stations to clear the salt water from the bore-holes.

Daily chemical analyses of the water were obtained through the courtesy of Mr. Petch, the Chemist at the Sheppey General Hospital, who supplied daily results of analyses for salt content. The S.M.O. at H.M. Dockyard, Doctor Glanville also arranged for bacteriological analyses to be taken on alternate days and these were forwarded to the Pathological Laboratory at the Royal Naval Hospital, Chatham.

The Metropolitan Water Board have also co-operated and have sent down one of their senior chemists to take samples for analyses.

The salt content in the water was sufficiently back near normal by Friday, February the 13th, and the results of the bacteriological analyses indicated that pumping from the Council's reservoir could be resumed, and a 24 hour water supply has been in operation since 8 a.m. on Saturday the 14th instant.

Up to the present the public have been advised not to use this water for drinking purposes until further analyses have been obtained.

During the emergency the Sheppey Water Co., whose supplies were not affected by flood water, were able to supplement their normal supplies to the Council, and this enabled a two hour daily supply of water for sanitary purposes to be given and the mains were turned on from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. each day. It is essential that the water supply should be a continuous one at present whilst the mains are being sterilised and I am continuing to take an average of 100 gallons of water per day from the Sheppey Water Company.

The emergency drinking water supply which was made possible by the Naval Authorities who organised the bulk supplies of drinking water by water carrying vessel, enabled a supply of approximately 1 gallon per head of pure drinking water to be distributed daily to the whole of the population, by means of a fleet of water carrying vehicles arranged and controlled by the Naval and Army Authorities. Without this valuable assistance the town would have been in an extremely precarious position in relation to fresh drinking water.

The water carrying vehicles operated from 8 a.m. in the morning until 9 p.m. daily and the personnel engaged on this work gave their services unstintingly and did everything required of them. Emphasis must also be placed on the valuable assistance given in this connection by members of the St. John Ambulance Brigade, who acted as guides to the drivers during the whole of the first week of the operation of the water carrying vehicles. The St. John Ambulance men engaged on this work were largely drawn from yard personnel and the assistance which they were able to have contributed in no small measure to the satisfactory distribution of the emergency drinking water supplies.

Pumping of Flood Water.

As soon as the extent of the flood was known arrangements were made for emergency pumping plant to be brought into the town as quickly as possible, and I first contacted the Kent Rivers Board who arranged through the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries for three 12 inch pumps to be despatched to Sheerness for my use. At the same time I approached the Naval Authorities at Sheerness Yard and very quickly obtained the use of salvage pumps from H.M.S. Uplifter.

The following pumping equipment was deployed throughout the town on the pumping of flood water.

—12 inch pumps.

4—8 inch pumps.

1—6 inch pump.

At the peak period when all these pumps were in operation a total of some 700,000 gallons of flood water was being pumped per hour and in addition the Council's two sewage pumps at the Westminster Outfall Station were also running continuously, and these were pumping an additional 400,000 gallons per hour, so that at the peak period of pumping no less than 1,100,000 gallons per hour was being pumped.

In addition to these pumps the Fire Brigade had a number of trailer pumps in operation in various parts of the town which were also pumping flood water away from the affected areas. I have not been able to obtain any accurate figures as to the number of gallons per hour which were being pumped by the Fire Service pumps, but this must have been considerable and is in addition to the figures which I have quoted above for the large salvage pumps which I have already mentioned.

A total of some 2,600 gallons of petrol was consumed in emergency pumping during the period from the 2nd January to the 16th February. The 12 inch pumps stationed at Barton's Point are still in operation, but in two or three days' time the water will have been lowered to its normal level and these pumps will then be dispensed with.

Very valuable assistance was given to me by Mr. A. Collins, of the Sheppey Water Company, who volunteered his services for any work which would be of use in the emergency and I placed him in charge of the emergency pumping equipment under my direction and he was responsible for the setting up of the portable pumps at the various points selected and worked day and night in conjunction with the Engineering Assistant, Mr. J. M. Young, during the week after the flooding.

5. Damage to Properties.

A rapid external visual survey has been carried out by Miss Aldridge, my Architectural Assistant, who was assisted by Mr. Weiser, loaned to me from the staff of the Sheppey Rural District Council by Mr. Brading. The survey revealed that no less than 2,641 properties in the town were affected by flood water and of these at least 422 houses were owned by the Council on the various housing estates.

A map has been prepared showing the general extent of the flooding throughout the town and this will no doubt

considerable value later when dealing with flood damage claims and other matters arising therefrom.

It has not been possible at this stage to carry out any detailed survey in connection with structural damage to properties but it would appear that very few houses have suffered any major structural damage which will affect the stability of the properties. A few houses suffered damage to floors, door frames and window frames, etc., but there appears to be no major problem in connection with damage to foundations.

6. Drying out of Houses.

In conjunction with the Ministry of Housing and Local Government arrangements were made for R.A.F. heaters to be sent to the town to assist in the drying out of ground floors in the houses badly affected by flood water. Five of these heaters have arrived in the town and were put to work on Thursday, the 12th instant. The town was split up into four areas for this purpose and the whole of the work has been put under the control of the Senior Sanitary Inspector, who is in close touch with the R.A.F. personnel and is arranging the order of priority in which the streets are to be dried with.

7. Damage caused to Public Buildings, Pavilion, Garrison Pier, etc.

A considerable amount of damage has been occasioned to various buildings, etc., in the vicinity of the Esplanade and has been reported to the Council, including the complete destruction of a sea hut at the Eastern end of the Esplanade, damage to public shelters, Pavilion, Pavilion Gardens, Bowling Green and other lock-up Kiosks along the sea front.

In addition, a great deal of damage has been occasioned to the decking of the Town Pier which is at present unusable by the public as a result. A large number of the wooden planks were washed out of the pier and these are unlikely to be recovered as they were washed away over a wide area. One or two of these were found as far distant as Queenborough Pier.

It is regrettable to have to report that in addition to the damage caused by the gale and flooding, wilful damage was done to the glass windows in the Pavilion by young hooligans.

A total of 356 squares of glass were deliberately broken. The Pavilion doors were broken down and damage done to stage lighting and to various electric fittings which have been wrenched from the walls. The total value

of the damage amounts to £51 7s. 6d., and this information has been given to the Police, who, I understand, have apprehended the offenders.

It has not been possible as yet to assess the value of the damage occasioned by the storm to the Council's property or in connection with major repairs which will be required to the portions of the Sea Wall for which the Council is the responsible Authority. A detailed survey and estimate of the cost of repairing the damage will be prepared as soon as possible.

8. Emergency Stand-by Duties.

During the present period of the Spring Tides extending from Friday, the 13th instant to Wednesday, the 18th instant, I have arranged for two Stand-by Squads to be on duty each night for a period of two hours commencing before high water. One of the squads is based at West Minster Sewage Pumping Station and patrols the length of wall from Blitham town to Queenborough Pier. An Army Patrol also operates during this period and a liaison is therefore established between the Civil Authorities and the Service Departments.

A second squad operates from the Council Depot, Trinity Road, and patrols the length of wall from Ravelin Battery to Barton's Point where contact in each case is maintained with Service personnel.

At the request of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government arrangements have also been made for the main street lighting to remain on all night during the period of the present Spring Tides and this will be discontinued as from Thursday next the 19th instant.

The above paragraphs cover the main items and services dealt with during the past 16 days, but it is realised that there are many smaller instances and items which have been dealt with but which are too numerous to embody in the present report.

I should like to place on record my appreciation of the manner in which the outdoor staff of the Council have carried out their duties during the period of the present emergency, as without their support and co-operation the work carried out could not have been accomplished. From supervisory grades downwards, all have pulled their weight and have done everything asked of them.

So far as the indoor staff of my Department are concerned, both the technical staff and the clerical staff have worked long hours throughout the day and night with

complaint and have carried out many arduous and unfamiliar tasks. They have done everything that has been asked of them and again I should like to place on record my appreciation of the manner in which they have supported me during the present emergency.

6th February, 1953.

Report by Medical Officer of Health on problems arising from the flooding on 1st February, 1953.

As both Sheerness East and Trinity Road pumping stations were put out of action at the start of flooding owing to sea water gaining access to the bores, the town's supply until 14th February consisted partly of Sheppey Water Company water from Wallend which was pumped to the Sheerness East Reservoir and supplied Marine Town, Mile Town and West Minster areas and partly of water from H.M. Dockyard, which supplied Blue Town. Owing to limitation of supplies, however, it was only possible to put these supplies in circulation for approximately two hours daily.

Though samples of Wallend water taken at the source and from the Reservoir were good, samples taken from taps in the town showed varying degrees of deterioration and it was therefore decided that as there was a possibility of damage to mains and leakage into the mains during the long periods when they were empty, to advise all users to boil their water when used for cooking or drinking. The same precaution was taken in respect of the supply to Blue Town.

As from Wednesday, 4th February, an additional supply was given by means of mobile tankers which were filled at H.M. Dockyard from water boats bringing in water from Ramsgate. These tankers toured all parts of the town and though originally intended to give a pure drinking water, it was found that samples taken at the points of distribution showed no residual chlorine. It was therefore decided to advise that this water be also boiled.

As soon as the floods subsided, the two bores at Trinity Road and the bore at Sheerness East began pumping to normal and daily salinity tests were taken and revealed an excess of chlorides at first. The reduction of these chlorides to normal was very rapid and by the 9th or 10th the excess was very small. Samples taken from the bores on the 10th showed high counts but no faecal contamination, but it was decided that as soon as the pumping stations were capable of pumping a heavily chlorinated supply to the reservoir

and storage tank and of maintaining a 24-hour supply, this water should be distributed through the mains to parts of the town so as to cleanse any possibly contaminating mains and to maintain a positive pressure and minimise possible danger of seepage into the mains. Representatives of the Metropolitan Water Board who also took samples on the 10th, agreed with this decision. This 24-hour supply of heavily chlorinated water commenced on Saturday, 11 February. Daily samples are being taken both at the sources at Trinity Road and Sheerness East and at points of distribution on the periphery, and as soon as reasonably good samples are obtained and maintained, the chlorine dose will be reduced. Until then, however, it is considered that any of this water used for cooking or drinking should be boiled.

I would like to mention here the great assistance given in the examination of water samples by Mr. Petch, Laboratory Technician at the Sheppey General Hospital. Petch also gave great assistance by arranging the supply of 10 gallons of pure water daily to all dispensing chemists in the area. I am also indebted to Lieut.-Commander G. Senior Medical Officer at H.M. Dockyard, for arranging bacteriological examination of various samples at the Naval Laboratory, Chatham.

Through the British Medical Association, additional medical practitioners were made available in case of a serious outbreak arising from the flooding. This fortunately was not required, as though there was naturally some increase in "influenzal" colds the local practitioners were able to cope. There has been no evidence so far of any water-borne diseases, but all medical practitioners have been asked to pay special attention to the possibility of these occurring. Until a good clean water supply is maintained, there is however a danger of such diseases occurring. Owing to the precautions taken in regard to the water supply, it is not considered however that the danger is serious.

As the water receded a small amount of sludge has been left on roads, gardens, etc. Roads are being dealt with by the Surveyor's Department and I do not consider any special action is necessary to deal with gardens, open lands, etc. These will gradually clear themselves by natural means. Disinfectant has already been issued to householders of flooded properties.

In conclusion, I would suggest that apart from the increase of "influenzal" colds and obviously increased stress on the elderly, the health of the area has remained good.

There is however still a danger of development of some water-borne or other intestinal diseases, e.g., Dysentery or typhoid, at a later stage, though as previously stated I do not think this danger is serious. If no cases of such disease occur within the next three or four weeks I would consider the danger to have passed.

14th February, 1953.

Report by D. E. Jacob, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Senior Sanitary Inspector, on work undertaken by Health Department from 1st February arising from flooding of the town.

Emergency Meals.

A survey of the town was made on Sunday to ascertain the areas flooded and the extent to which food supplies might have been affected. Fortunately the main food premises, bakeries, cafes and retail food shops were unaffected, but it was realised that the large residential areas affected would need emergency meals. It was decided to request the Education Authorities to provide emergency meals as the schools would be closed. The Rose Street School canteen was flooded and the Broadway and Jefferson Road School canteens were used. The Health Department assisted in ordering additional food supplies, arranging mobile water supplies from the Trinity Road supply to the canteens and assisting with mobile food teams which toured the districts worst affected. The first meals commenced at 10.30 a.m., Monday, and continued until Thursday. Meals were also provided at the Broadway Schools during the same four days for persons evacuated.

Reception Centre.

A reception centre was organised by the District Office of the K.C.C. (Mr. Phillips) at the Welfare Centre and subsequently transferred to the Technical Institute and was used as a headquarters for all welfare work including W.V.S. (clothing), Red Cross (medical and food), St. John Ambulance Service (assisting in evacuation, etc.), and liaison between these services and the Council was maintained through the Health Department. The Health Department staff actively assisted in distribution of meals, evacuation,

and emergency water supplies prior to the Services bringing water from Chatham. The District Office and W.V.S. were advised to retain stocks of clothing and bedding particularly for elderly persons flooded from bungalows who may not be returning until after this week's high tides. The Health Department was also the link between the reception centre at Sheerness and the Rural District Council for billeting evacuees.

Issue of Disinfectant.

By assistance from the Ministry of Health and the Health Departments in the Medway Towns, bulk supplies were obtained by boat and were bottled here and issued to the worst flooded areas. Supplies still continue to be available through the Health Department to disinfect flooded houses, thanks to gifts from Messrs. Bugges, of Sittibourne, and Messrs. Ibbetson, of Barking.

Cleansing Detergents.

Through the K.C.C. Stores Department a bulk quantity of Teepol, a gift from Messrs. Shell Chemicals Ltd., was obtained and is being issued through the Health Department. This has a wide range of household cleansing uses ranging from fabrics to crockery and is very efficient. It was received after the flooding had cleared and is still available on application to the Health Department. Applications have been asked to provide their own bottles.

R.A.F. Hot Air Driers.

These operated from Thursday afternoon, 12th, and there are now five units in the town working in various districts. Rotas were drawn up by this Department and up to the present approximately 218 houses have been dealt with. They have proved very efficient for drying upholstered furniture, carpets, bedding, etc., but in some instances, where walls have been saturated through prolonged flooding, interior wall surfaces are still damp, probably due to absorption of the bricks. This is a problem which is likely to persist for a long time.

Spoiled Rationed Foods.

By arrangement with the Food Offices, certificates have been issued to persons losing rationed foods as a result of the floods.

Flooded Food Shops.

Quantities of foods at several shops affected by floods and by failure of refrigerators due to the break down in the electricity supply, were inspected, condemned and voluntarily surrendered. Certificates were issued for the same. As the floods did not affect the main shopping centres the quantities involved were less than anticipated.

Survey of flood damage to household effects.

The Health Department has commenced surveying premises where applications for flood relief have been received. The Gillingham Borough Council has kindly loaned the Sanitary Inspector who is assisting exclusively in this work. The pressure of work on immediate matters of sanitary inspection, e.g., water sampling, etc., has not enabled all the Health Department staff to be engaged on the above and with the resumption of normal work on housing and sanitary inspection and the limited time the Gillingham Borough Council can spare the Assistant now loaned, it will be impossible to complete this survey within a short time and it is anticipated with the applications being made, may take several months if the normal Health Department work is to be maintained adequately at the same time. In February, 1953.

SHEPPEY RURAL DISTRICT

Report by Mr. E. F. Brading, M.I.Mun.E., A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Engineer and Surveyor, Sheppey R.D.C.

Flood Emergency, February, 1953.

At this date, being some 17 days since the flooding which took place on the night of Saturday, 31st January, 1953, I am able to submit my report on damage and emergency work carried out under my direction to meet the demands arising at that time.

The situation at daybreak on Sunday, 1st February, so far as it affected the low lying areas of Minster, was :—
Some 50 houses flooded.

The two main sewage pumping stations out of action.
Two disposal works flooded.

As no immediate action would have served any useful purpose, Mr. Hall, my deputy, and I, with the foreman, went to Sheerness, assisting where we could. I stayed at Sheerness until Monday morning. Mr. Hall made an appreciation of sea defence damage through the Leysdown area on Sunday afternoon.

The Sheerness Council were faced with the following urgent relief measures:—

1. Water Supply.
2. Repair of sea walls.
3. Relieving the town area of flood waters.
4. Evacuation.
5. Transport of milk, food, etc., on to the Island.

In some way or another all these activities affected to some extent, the Rural area.

Co-ordination.

From Wednesday, the 4th February, a Conference was held daily at the Dockyard under the Chairmanship of Capt. Superintendent at which all Service Heads, Sheerness Urban District Council, Sheppey Rural District Council, Chamber of Commerce were represented. Mr. A. Johnson (representing Agricultural interests) and I attended. From this conference daily bulletins were issued to traders and the public. All matters arising from the emergency were dealt with. A record of these conferences is available.

Water Supply.

The Sheppey Water Company maintained a constant supply into the Sheerness U.D.C. reservoir, providing sufficient water for the limited supply through the main for washing and sanitary purposes within the Urban area.

The piped water supplies of the Rural area were affected by the floods. The marsh wells on farms and, of course, affected.

Damage to Sea Walls.

Broadly all the sea walls of Sheppey, some 22 miles in extent, were damaged. Actual breaks occurred at frequent intervals throughout the unfaced clay walls at:—

1. Scrapsgate to Barton's Point.
2. Leysdown to Queenborough on the Swale.

The masonry faced walls of Queenborough and Sheerness were very seriously weakened.

Priority for repairs was given to:—

- (a) The drainage of the Elmley Marshes to free the Ferry Road of flood water and give access to Sheppey.
- (b) The strengthening of the Queenborough and Sheerness walls.
- (c) Scrapsgate to Barton's Point.

Organisation of these works was well in hand by Wednesday, 4th February, and attention was extended to the Leysdown, Warden and Shellness areas. The sea defences from Leysdown to Warden Bay called for immediate attention, and I was authorised by the River Board to carry out emergency repairs. Labour on this work was drawn from Sheppey R.D.C. employees, County Highway Department employees, and Kent River Board men.

On Saturday, 7th February, the River Board arranged to mobilise the greatest volume of civilian labour available at the Employment Exchange for urgent work to the walls protecting the Ferry Bridge Road. Messrs. Bennett and Smith undertook to engage the men and on the Sunday, 8th February, upward of 200 men were set to work. Mr. Hall and Mr. Weiser supervised the commencement, the latter continuing during the week until the River Board Engineer took over.

Supplies, emergency feeding, etc., were arranged through my office for defence works.

I think it should be recorded that the weather during the days of 7th, 8th and 9th of February was dreadful, with snow and strong winds.

Leysdown.

Representations during the early days of the flood for assistance to repair a complete break of some 150 yards in the sea wall on the Air Ministry property at Leysdown produced results in the latter part of the week, with some 90 Royal Air Force personnel and a lesser number of Air Force personnel. The break was a serious menace and although the hastily constructed sandbag wall withstood the high tides of the 16th and 17th February, the danger will remain until the wall is properly re-formed.

During the period 9th to 14th February, arrangements were being made for defence work to be taken over by Public Works Contractors and by Monday night, 16th, the Council employees were withdrawn.

Shell Beach.

The majority of the beach huts at Shell Beach were destroyed and furniture and effects scattered throughout the Shellness Road. The police asked for assistance in the salvage of furniture and effects and this was carried out by your workmen under Police supervision during the week ending February 7th.

Shellness.

Serious damage occurred to most of the Holiday Bungalows.

Agricultural Interests.

Wednesday, 4th February, saw the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries organisation with headquarters at the offices set up to deal with:—

1. The disposal of carcasses.
2. The feeding of animals.
3. The evacuation of animals to other grazing grounds.

Your officers were concerned with the disposal of carcasses by burial. The major number were, however, taken off the Island for disposal. The farmers were assisted in the work by the Naval and Army units with amphibious vehicles. This work was largely completed by Saturday 14th February.

Sewerage.

(a) **Minster**—Both disposal works were flooded and the two main pumping stations out of order. No electricity, and motors flooded.

Wards Hill Pumping Station—This was in order and pumping on Wednesday, 4th February.

Drove Road—This was in use on Monday, 9th February.

Disposal Works—Both disposal works were free from flood water by Saturday, 14th February.

(b) **Eastchurch**—The disposal works and pumping station were flooded. Pumping station not yet functioning.

(17th February). The raised timber causeway was completely washed away.

(c) **Leysdown**—The disposal works flooded, not free from flood water (17th February). Timber covers to tank washed away.

Refuse Collection.

Normal refuse collection was maintained, access to the tip not seriously affected. Sheerness U.D.C. are using the tip for the time being. The flood damaged considerably the fences surrounding the tip. Tins and refuse from the tip were carried long distances. The collection of this scattered refuse is in hand.

Housing.

No Council houses were affected by the floods. One bungalow, "The Homestead," Scrapsgate Road, owned by the Council, was flooded.

An early appreciation of properties affected by the flood was made and a list compiled.

The very slow rate at which the flood water receded from the Sheerness East area gave your officers concern on account of bad sanitary conditions. With the flood waters receding attention was given to the clearing up of the area. Disinfectants were supplied to every house.

The care of persons affected was dealt with by your Emergency Committee.

Emergency Feeding.

Preliminary arrangements were made for the supply of hot meals to evacuees but, as a result of the limited scale of evacuation and the speedy dispersal of evacuees to billets, the provision of hot meals was found to be unnecessary.

Emergency feeding was therefore limited to:—

(a) Tea provided at the Reception Centre to 73 evacuees.

(b) Emergency supplies of bread, milk and some tinned foods to evacuees on dispersal to billets.

(c) Meals provided by the Sheppey General Hospital to 12 persons billeted at the Hospital and Preston Skreens.

(d) The distribution of tinned foods and carcase meat

to 46 families in premises within the Rural District which have been flooded and to persons resident in the Parishes of Elmley and Harty, these being areas isolated by the flood.

(e) The provision of tea to some 400 workmen on sea wall repairs. For this purpose Soya boilers and containers were obtained from the Ministry of Food.

Report by the Medical Officer of Health on health matters arising out of the flooding, 31st January—1st February, 1952

1. Properties Affected.

	Flooded	Damaged	Destroyed
Houses—			
Mainly Sheerness East, Scrapsgate Road, Warden Bay and some isolated cottages on the marshes	47	—	—
Holiday Bungalows—			
Shellness Hamlet and Shellness Beach	95	83	12
Chalets—			
Mainly Love's Camp ...	29	—	—
Caravans—			
Mainly Love's, Davis's and Jefcoate's Camps ...	85	5	—

Five houses were evacuated (Stray Marsh Cottage, Ferry Marsh Cottages and the Homestead at Wards Hill). All have now been reoccupied and all flooded houses have been cleaned up. Disinfectant was issued by the Health Department to all householders concerned. In three instances the R.A.F. drier was used to assist in drying out the houses.

The Holiday Bungalows at Shellness Hamlet and Shellness Beach were (with exception of the caretaker at Shellness Hamlet) all unoccupied at the time of the flood. The caretaker is now back in occupation. At Shellness Hamlet reconstruction and cleaning up is in progress. Owners of bungalows at Shellness Beach are now visiting their properties and gradually cleaning up and repairing where necessary.

The Chalets and Caravans were all unoccupied at the time of the flooding. Owners are now visiting and cleaning up.

2. Water Supply.

Neither the Council's Pumping Station at Warden nor the Stations of the Sheppey Water Company were affected by the flooding and continued in action throughout the period.

Of the wells supplying isolated cottages, bungalows and farms, the following were the only wells affected :—

(a) The well at Shellness Hamlet was seriously contaminated with sea water. It is not at present in use for drinking purposes but is being pumped to waste. Samples taken show that apart from a high saline content (showing evidence of sea pollution) the water is bacteriologically reasonably good. The water from this well will be kept under observation.

(b) The well at Black Cottages was surrounded by sea water but was not seriously affected. Samples taken show satisfactory bacteriological counts and the water is being used normally at Black Cottages, Elliotts Farm, etc.

(c) The well at Mussel Marsh, used by occupants of beach bungalows at Shellness, is not at present in use, there being no bungalows in occupation. This well will be tested before being put into use.

(d) The well at Great Bells Farm was also flooded and the farm is at present carting water from the Prison Camp for drinking purposes. Arrangements are being made for investigations to be carried out before the well water is again used.

Disposal of Carcasses.

Arrangements for the disposal of carcasses of animals drowned in the flood were under the supervision of representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. In some instances the Ministry arranged for transportation to tanners' yards for disposal, in others the hides were removed and the carcasses buried in the marshes. In no case was any nuisance discovered or reported. Arrangements

were made with the Ministry's representatives that information be sent to the Medical Officer of Health of the area concerned when the carcasses were removed out of the district.

4. Rodent Control.

Careful watch for the possible migration of rodents was carried out but no influx was noted.

25th March, 1953.